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FAMILY PRAYERS:

BEING A

COMPLETE COURSE FOR EIGHT WEEKS;

WITH

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS,

SUITED TO

THE VARIOUS OCCASIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF A FAMILY.

BY THE REV. E. BICKERSTETH,

RECTOR OF WATTON, HERTS.

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PREFACE.

THE Author has often been requested to prepare a book of family prayers, but he was hindered by other occupation, and had also the feeling that there was considerable provision made for this duty in the devotions that have already been given to the church.

During a late illness, however, while disabled from his public ministry, and restricted from every thing that might occasion mental excitement, it appeared to him that it might be both personally profitable, consistent with the circumstances in which he had been placed, and useful to others, to avail himself of notes which had been made of his own family prayers in preparing this work, and the reader has now before him the fruit of this seclusion from full public duties.

The regular daily practice of family devotion comes so continually that the multiplication of helps is not without its advantage against the danger of mere formal repetitions.

May it please the Lord to bless each scriptural effort, however feeble, thus to assist the devotions of his people. The circumstances of the times are so peculiar, and the unfoldings of providence are so remarkable as justly to call on the minister of Christ to supply his people with hints for prayers suited to these times.

The prayers here given are comparatively short, particularly those in the 6th and 7th weeks; but it will be easy to enlarge them from the occasional prayers which furnish a considerable part of the present volume.

Matthew Henry used to say that they who pray, do well; they who pray and read the scriptures, do better; they who pray, and read, and sing, do best; this is true, provided the heart go along with the worship, and we are led from the outward to the inward service.

The Author's plan has long been to sing a psalm or hymn, read a very short portion from the New Testament in regular course in the morning, and from the Old in the evening, explain it in a practical manner, and then unite with his family in prayer,

founded on the instruction given, and connected with the events of the day.

It is very desirable that family prayer should not be something distinct and separate from the usual spirit and habits of the family; but the refreshing and strengthening of all the ordinary course and feelings, and the very centre of the family interest and happiness, gathering round it all that most concerns us each day. It is important that it should not be merely a venerable custom, but a spring of blessing, flowing daily in renewed streams of grace for the whole household.

The following hints for using these prayers may be useful.

The Author hopes that the heads of families who use them, may be induced by their general shortness to lengthen them as occasion may require, and he gives the following hints for this purpose.

The Lord's prayer should precede, or follow the form here given.

Collects for special graces are added at the close of the book, that they may be occasionally used.

The sacred seasons of the episcopal church

furnish her members also with profitable opportunities of varying and enlarging family devotion.

In this method it is hoped that many a master, or parent, or head of a family, giving a few minutes previously in private for preparation, will learn by degrees the happy skill of framing his own family devotions, and giving that variety to them which will adapt them to the ever-varying circumstances of a family, and prevent their becoming mere matter of form and custom.

In a former work the Author recommended that every head of a family should try to attain the holy skill of exposition in his family, and should be a Teacher in his own house. This skill is of more easy attainment, and of much more important benefit, than is often supposed. Christians might thus become more fitted for extensive usefulness. Any thing tedious and wearisome is to be avoided. Short striking addresses to the conscience, drawn from the passage like arrows from the bow penetrate the heart, but lengthened common-place explanation, wearies and disgusts, and is in ordinary cir-

cumstances quite out of place in the family. Much, very much of the true blessedness of this service will depend on the lively piety of the expounder. Well is it when family prayer is felt to be such a blessing that a necessary absence is felt to be a loss and privation. In closing these prefatory remarks, I would endeavour to press upon the heads of families to seek the attainment of the blessed privilege of conducting family devotions without being tied to a form, and with all the freedom of unbosoming our inward feelings and wants as children of God to our heavenly Parent and ever present Redeemer. Multiplication of forms cannot fully meet the vast variety of Providence, or comprehend the infiniteness of divine thoughts and pleadings given us in the word of God for this blessed duty. What comes warm and direct from the heart will also find its way more readily to the hearts of others. There are frequently occasions when one holy strain of desire and feeling, which might seem limited or exclusive in a published form, may yet from circumstances most suitably and profitably be used in our family.

Gratifying then as is the large and growing demand for publications of this kind, as showing that this blessed duty is more extensively practised, I cannot but hope that in this, as well as in other things, the New Covenant direction and promise may soon be more realized. "They shall not teach every man his neighbour and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord, but all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."

The highest recompense of all labour is to promote the divine glory in being useful to the souls of our fellow-men. The Lord prosper this effort to this end. I send forth this work to the Church, with humble prayer to that heavenly Father who has graciously prospered my past publications so much beyond my hopes, that it may please him to make this farther effort useful in promoting family devotion among my fellow-Christians.

E. BICKERSTETH.

*Watton Rectory, Herts,
April 2d, 1842.*

ADDRESS
OF THE
HEAD OF A FAMILY,
ON BEGINNING FAMILY WORSHIP.

MY DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

THE duty and importance of family prayer have determined me to begin this sacred service immediately, and to continue it regularly from this day, morning and evening.

All common excuses for neglecting it are wholly insufficient. To say that we have no time for such a duty is to suppose that all our time does not belong to God, and that our really profitable employment of it does not depend upon his blessing. All other employment of time may be expected to prosper as we openly acknowledge and honour him daily with a portion of that time which he has given us. To say that we are ashamed of owning God and his truth, before our fellow men, is to bring ourselves under the terrible sentence—"Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him shall the Son of man

be ashamed when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

There is far more danger of neglecting family prayer than in attending to it. We may possibly be sometimes inconvenienced in our employments, or we may possibly sometimes offend those whom we desire to oblige by family worship, but it is a far more serious evil, by not duly attending to the directions of God's holy word in that employment of time which affects our eternal interest, to offend our highest and best friend, even the Almighty; who can alone make any other friendship delightful or profitable to us. It is his declared and solemn purpose to pour out his displeasure upon the families that call not upon his name, (Jer. x. 25,) and let us be more afraid of that wrath than any other displeasure. It is also his gracious promise, that if we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, all other things shall be added unto us; and let us trust his promise.

The examples of God's faithful servants and the blessing of God which followed their conduct, furnish weighty and unanswerable reasons for this duty. Thus our God testified of Abraham: "I know Abraham, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." Gen. xviii. 19. Let us be followers of the faith of Abraham. Of Joshua, again, it is tes-

tified that he said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua xxiv. 15. Let this, by God's grace, be our purpose also.

We find, both in the Old and the New Testament, that the devoted servants of God were men who honoured and worshipped God in their own dwelling.

We are brought together in God's providence as a family, not merely for our worldly comfort and in order to provide for each other the comforts, and conveniences, and advantages of this life. We are brought together in the grace and loving-kindness of God, that we may be helpful to each other in higher and better interests; that we may be trained and educated in one family below, to fulfil the duties of this life towards all our fellow-creatures, and to be made meet to share in the privileges and joys of the great family of God, to be gathered together in his heavenly kingdom,

Created by one Almighty Father, redeemed by the blood of one Lord, Jesus Christ, having all the promise of one Teacher, the Holy Ghost, and the hope of one eternal home; altogether dependent, as we all are, for life and breath, salvation and eternal glory on the grace and goodness of the living and the true God, how right, and meet, and just it is that we should daily together praise his name and implore his favour and blessing!

I trust therefore that nothing but absolute necessity will hinder us, from this time forward, from re-

gularly assembling together, morning and evening, for the purpose of reading the Scriptures and uniting in family worship, and, if practicable, singing together the praises of our great God and Saviour.

Only let us take care that we come together, into the immediate presence of our God in family prayer, with seriousness and earnestness, with humility and reverence, looking to God himself to give us that spirit of grace and supplication without which our prayers will become a mere form and a solemn mockery, but with which we shall be strengthened and established, comforted and refreshed in the way to our heavenly home.

It is the gracious promise of our Redeemer that where two or three are met together in his name, there he will be in the midst of them, and that what two of his disciples agree on earth touching any thing to ask of God, he will do it for them. Let us, having full confidence in the faithfulness of these gracious promises, meet in his name. Let us not doubt but that he himself will be, though invisibly, yet really in the midst of us. Let us be sure that no true prayer made in his name shall be made in vain, or fail of obtaining for us that mercy, and grace, and blessing which we need for our present and eternal good.

We have also the gracious assurance of the word of God that Christ has entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us, and

that he there ever lives to make intercession for us, and to offer up the prayers of his people. We have also the faithful promise of God that his Spirit helps our infirmities, and when we know not what to pray for as we ought, he makes intercession for the saints, according to the will of God.

I entreat, then, your assistance, my dear family, that this may not be the service of one, but of all; not the prayer of one leading the devotions, but the prayer of all, offering one united desire of the heart in the sight of Him who is a Spirit, and requires that we worship him in spirit and in truth. Let us draw near to God with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience. May we thus become more and more united to Christ our living Head, and then to each other in him, more and more helpful to each other, and so preparing for fuller and higher joy in his presence through eternity.

Read Psalm 1, or 101, or 127. Read or sing a hymn.*

A FIRST FAMILY PRAYER.

Almighty and most merciful Father, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who hast graciously promised that thou wilt be the God of all the families of Israel and they shall be thy people, behold we

* See Family Hymns in the Author's Christian Psalmody.

come unto thee in the name of Christ Jesus, for thou art the Lord our God.

Thou alone dost set the solitary in families, and fixest the bounds of our habitation, and canst build us up a sure house, and make us to dwell in safety, and we acknowledge thee to be the God of our family and the giver of our blessings. But, O Lord, if left to ourselves, we forget thee and call not upon thy name, and bring upon ourselves thy righteous wrath. O Lord, pardon all our past neglect of thy worship and service, and grant us grace henceforth to honour thee in our family, and, whatever others may do, to take up Joshua's holy purpose of heart, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Help us deeply to feel and ever to remember that except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it; that children and the fruit of the womb are a heritage and gift that come from thee, and that a special blessing was given to Abraham for commanding his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord and to do judgment and justice. Thou hast charged us to teach thy words diligently unto our children, and to talk of them when we sit in the house and walk out, when we lie down and when we rise up. Grant then, O Lord, that from this time forward we may have grace from thee to meet together continually to read and hear thy word, to sing thy praise, and to worship thee as a family. O do thou most mercifully pour upon us the spirit

of grace and supplication, and give unto us the seeing eye, the hearing ear, the understanding, and believing, and obedient heart, that we may be truly converted unto thee and live.

May our household be a Christian household, not in name only, but in truth; and may all our family plans and rules be ordered according to thy word. As masters and servants, parents and children, may we be wholly conformed to thy will, and our children be brought up in thy nurture. Enable us constantly, as a family, to walk worthy of the Gospel, and to adorn in all things the doctrine of God our Saviour.

We now dedicate our house and family unto thee. We avouch thee the Lord this day to be our God, and our purpose to be to walk in thy ways, and to keep thy statutes, and thy commandments, and thy judgments, and to hearken to the voice of thy commandments. O do thou avouch us to be thy peculiar people, and that we shall keep thy commandments and be a holy people unto thee, according to thy promise. O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in him our Father, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of our hearts, and prepare our hearts, and put thy fear within us, that we may never depart from thee. We beseech thee to hear us, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING BLESSING.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

FAMILY PRAYERS,

First Week.

I.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

FOR GRACE TO IMPROVE SABBATH PRIVILEGES.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast given us thy sabbaths to be a sign betwixt thee and us, and a foretaste and sure earnest of the eternal sabbath which yet remains for thy people; we come to thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, that Son of man, who is Lord of the Sabbath, and entreat thee to assist us to keep this day holy, and not to receive thy grace in vain.

Our privileges indeed are great; thy house is ready and open to us; thy ministers wait to instruct us, thy people come together; O may we discern that each Sabbath is a gracious opportunity for good; a sacred talent to be occupied for thee.

We are indeed so sinful and so weak that we can do nothing of ourselves, but must in every thing look

to thee for grace and strength. If thou do not give us the spirit of prayer, we are so alienated from thee that we shall approach thee only with a solemn mockery of holy words, while our hearts are full of worldliness. If thou do not give us the spirit of hearing, we are so besotted with sin, that our minds will be wandering after every vanity. O Lord, thou canst give, and we know that when we ask in faith, thou wilt give unto us an understanding, a believing, a loving, and an obedient heart. Fail not thus to bless us now. The good we would, we do not, the evil we would not, that we do. Our souls cleave to the dust. Bad habits have been long established in us, and we go on in the same evil course of mere formal worship, and are ready to say, could the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots, then might we who are accustomed to do evil learn to do well. But thou hast said, all things are possible with thee; all things are possible to him that believeth: come then with thy mighty power and succour us, and through a living faith may we this day worship thee in spirit and in truth.

Bless thy ministers in all thy churches through the world. Enable them to be faithful stewards of thy mysteries. May decayed churches be restored; reformed churches be revived and quickened; freshly planted churches be increased; Babylon speedily fall, and the children of Zion be joyful in their King, and the glory of thy saints be perfected.

This day may many a soul in nature's darkness be made glad in thy light; many a loiterer in thy ways be quickened; many a backslider, healed; and on every side the kingdom of Satan be diminished, and the government and kingdom of him who is the wonderful Counsellor, the mighty God, and the everlasting Father, grow, extend and be enlarged, till it embrace the whole habitable globe, and all the ends of the earth rejoice in thy salvation. Look also upon each solitary wanderer and sick one in his private chamber, and each voyager on the wide ocean, and give them sabbath mercies. May they know that thou, the God of the Sabbath, art present in their solitude, and able to bless them there. O Lord, hear us and answer us for Jesus' sake.

II.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

FOR A BLESSING ON THE WORD PREACHED.

Thanks be unto thee, O our merciful Father, for the many and great religious advantages and spiritual privileges which we enjoy in our favoured land on this thy holy day. Truly may it be said to us, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see, for many prophets and kings have desired to see the things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear the things which ye hear, and have not heard them. O Lord, may our privileges never turn to our greater condemnation. O Lord, let thy

goodness lead us to repentance. May we bear in mind that every gift is given to a man to profit withal; and may knowledge, faith, humility, love and obedience ever follow in our souls the hearing of thy truth; enlighten thereby our minds, purify our hearts, and sanctify our lives.

We do earnestly implore of thee to give unto us thy Holy Spirit to bring to our remembrance what we have heard; may we all of us so meditate upon thy truth day and night, that we may be like a tree planted by the river of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in due season.

Let us not deceive ourselves by judging, approving and commending what we hear; let us remember that thy words may be to us as a very lovely song, and yet we may be of those who hear them, but do them not. O may thy truth have a real and constant and powerful influence upon every day and every hour of our lives, upon all our thoughts, words and actions.

We pray for those that have assembled with us in thy house. Pardon all our infirmities and iniquities in thy worship and service, and give us the great blessings which we asked, because of our Advocate and High Priest, now in thy presence for us.

We pray for those who have been absent from public worship. Some have been kept by sickness, and others by unavoidable hinderances, from the assemblies of thy people: grant unto them the visits of thy love and grace in their sick chamber, or where-

ever may be the place of their constrained absence. Others have kept away from thy house through wilful unbelief, sin, and disobedience; O give them true repentance and a better mind for the time to come; and may they, with us, know what it is to be joyful in thy house of prayer.

O Lord, follow with thy largest blessing all the faithful labours of thy ministers. Give an abundant increase every where to the seed sown, and may the fruits of righteousness spring up on every side. May the myriads upon myriads of prayers this day offered up by thy believing and devout people, bring down innumerable blessings on thy church, and, through the great Advocate, be a prevailing intercession with thee for a sinful world. O let Israel at length know the blessedness of our Christian Sabbath and of our Lord's day, believing in the resurrection of Jesus, and receiving the out-pouring of his Spirit. Revive thy dying churches; enlarge continually the kingdom of Christ; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory, for his name's sake. Amen.

III.

MONDAY MORNING.

FOR A SENSE OF GOD'S LOVE.

O God, our gracious Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose presence and glory surround us on every side, shed abroad, through the Holy Ghost, thy love in Christ Jesus into our hearts. O may we all see how great is thy goodness! how

great is thy beauty! and how excellent is thy loving-kindness! and may all of us be numbered with the sons of men who put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

Give us grace to live under the constant sense of thy holy love to us sinners. May we enter into the fulness of that blessed truth,—that God is love, and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him. Let love, out of a pure heart, be the great animating, directing and enlivening principle of our whole conduct, towards thee and towards all men.

May the sermons yesterday preached by thy ministering servants here, and the instruction given, be a blessing to this place; to rich and poor, to young and old, to the children in the schools, and to the parents of the children. Extend the same blessing wherever thy gospel has been proclaimed, far and wide. Let there not be one hearing thy truth without gaining some quickening or strengthening grace from the truth preached.

May thy church be animated by a believing view of the bliss of all thy saints now with thee in the heavenly Zion, and by the prospect of the resurrection-glory of thy church in the day of Christ. Seeing this great cloud of witnesses, may we run with patience day by day, the race that is set before us, laying aside every weight with which the world or Satan would encumber us, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and always looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

O Lord, hold thou up our goings in thy paths; for only while thou holdest us up are we safe. We are in the midst of snares and temptations, which we see not, or at best see very dimly. Do thou then, who never slumberest nor sleepest, still watch over, keep and guard us, and inspire us with holy zeal, and courage and devotedness in thy service.

May the wicked all around be converted and turned to thee; may the impenitent and unbelieving be brought to repentance and faith; may those burdened with sin and guilt come to Jesus and be relieved.

Bless this our family. May it appear that we have been given to each other and brought together in thy providence to be a full blessing to each other, in body and in soul, for time and eternity. O may we all, through thy imparted grace, bring to each other that daily help and comfort which thou didst design for us, by our union as one family together.

And bless the whole family of God; bring in the Jews; bring in the Gentiles, and let it be said over the whole earth, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

IV.

MONDAY EVENING.

PRAYER,—A REST IN WEARINESS.

Great God, the God of the whole earth and of the highest heavens, our merciful Father, who wast in

Christ Jesus reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, we beseech thee to draw all our hearts now unto thee. O grant that this, our daily family prayer unto thee, may not be a burden, but our joy and delight; may we engage in it, not merely because the habit and order of the family require us to do so, but as a real relief and comfort to our souls; may we never be weary of it, nor weary in it; but ever find it a refreshment in our weariness and a rest from our cares.

We thank thee from the heart for all the mercies of this day; our many wants have been supplied; we have been spared and blessed, and every thing that has happened to us has been according to thy gracious providence; we thank thee for the joys and for the sorrows, for the mercies and for the trials of this day, all come from thee in love; and O give us to know that, loving thee, all will work for our best good. Help us to rejoice in thee, the Lord, always, and in every thing to give thanks.

We confess to thee our many sins. Whether we look at our thoughts, words, or works; in the morning, at mid-day, in the afternoon, or in the evening, we have not, as we ought, had a lively sense of thy presence, nor sought with full purpose of heart thy glory, nor walked with thee all the day long, nor taken up, as we should, self-denying work and duty. Vain and worldly thoughts have too much possessed our souls, and made us like those who live as without

God in the world. We have not called on thee. We have been weary of thee. Blot out all our transgressions for thy name's sake, and remember our sins no more. Renew our souls by thy grace, and make us pure, even as thou art pure, and meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

May all the changing scenes of this life work for our spiritual and eternal good. May our eye be single and our whole body full of light.

Bless each member of our family, the master, and the servants, the children and the relatives, our friends and our neighbours; may all receive a blessing from thee through our prayers. Help us to be lovers of hospitality and lovers of good men. May our church and our country be protected, preserved and prospered continually, through thy watchful care and good providence from day to day.

Give us a lively interest in the prosperity of thy whole church and the increase of thy kingdom. O Lord, grant these great blessings; speedily bring to its predicted end the mystery of iniquity, and destroy the man of sin with the brightness of thy coming. Faithfully accomplish thy promised truth and mercy to Zion, and let all the ends of the earth see thy salvation. O grant our requests, for our Redeemer's sake.

V.

TUESDAY MORNING.

STRENGTH FOR DAILY DUTY.

Almighty and eternal God, now present with us, thine eye upon every heart, thine ear open to every desire, and waiting now to be gracious to us in Christ Jesus, may we ever feel that it is our richest privilege to approach thy throne of grace. We now seek of thee those things which are needful for our souls and for our bodies, which Jesus alone is worthy to receive for us, and which he is exalted to bestow upon us.

Assist us in all that lies before us this day. Be present with us in every thing in which we are engaged. In study and in labour, in silence and in conversation, in company and in retirement, in business and in relaxation, at home and abroad, in trials and in joys, O still be near to our souls; and in all the varied circumstances of this day, may our fullest joy be in thy presence, our one desire to do thy will, and our greatest object to be approved by thee.

We are very far from thy mind and thy image, blessed Lord Jesus. We feel the inward workings of pride and vanity, self-will and earthly-mindedness, but O make us like thyself, meek and lowly, and delighting to do God's will; and with one mind may we seek the glory of our heavenly Father.

We are weak also to do what thy Spirit in us has taught us to desire. We fall unless thou sustain us. Hold thou up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not. Impress so deeply and strongly upon our minds the sense of our own sinfulness and weakness, that we may be constantly looking to thee for righteousness and strength, and receiving out of the fulness of Christ the grace which we need. O may that abundance of grace which bringeth salvation, effectually teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.

Help us in each duty of this day, whether personal or domestic, relative or social, to be earnest and simple-hearted followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, and kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honour preferring one another. Assist us in all the temptations and difficulties of the day, and make us prompt to seize all its opportunities of doing good. May we have wisdom to discern what our special duties are, and grace given to us in patient diligence and self-denial to fulfil them, and through all may sweet intercourse in secret with our God be our hidden joy and consolation.

God Almighty bless not only our family, but the families whom we know and love. Multiply thy grace and peace upon all around us. Regard with thy favour our beloved church and country, and make them a full blessing to all nations: especially

may we show love to Zion, and so inherit the prosperity thou hast promised.

Accept our grateful thanksgiving for blessings without number to our bodies and our souls, to our families and to our friends, this day continued and multiplied to us. But, above all, we praise thee for thine unspeakable gift, Jesus our Lord, and our Saviour, to whom with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory now and for ever. Amen.

VI.

TUESDAY EVENING.

FOR FULFILLING PRESENT DUTY IN HOPE OF COMING
GLORY, AND FOR PROTECTION.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the King of glory, exalted at the right hand of God to be a prince and a Saviour, to give us repentance and remission of sins, thou hast promised that "where two or three are met together in thy name, thou art in the midst of them;" enable us in faith to approach now unto thee, and give unto us repentance and remission of sins. Thou hast invited the weary and the heavy-laden to come unto thee and take upon them thy easy yoke and thy light burden, that they may find rest for their souls: give us grace thus to come unto thee and obtain rest.

Almighty Father, draw us unto Jesus, that we may come to him and be raised up by him at the last day. O that our daily life may be a constant coming

to Christ, a constant receiving out of his fulness, a life of continual faith in the Son of God. Give us of his Spirit very largely, and may we know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

Do thou, merciful God, enliven and enlarge our hopes of thy future glory in our earth, when all shall know thee from the least to the greatest. May we feel the power of those holy promises, in the midst of present abounding sin, which show us that the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Hasten thy coming and thy kingdom. In the mean while may we fulfil our present duties, our daily work, doing all as unto the Lord.

Bless the church to which we belong, the place in which we reside, and all the ministers of Christ in every place, and send forth every where more labourers into thy harvest. Bless especially our own beloved country, and all efforts for the increase in it of divine knowledge and for its spiritual as well as temporal welfare. When the enemy comes in like a flood, may the Spirit of the Lord lift up a standard against him. Clothe thy priests with thy righteousness, and make thy people joyful in thy salvation. May thy word descend as the rain and the dew, and refresh our weary land, that it may become as a fruitful field and a vineyard of the Lord's planting.

May we now lie down at peace with thee and with

all our fellow men, and be protected by thy good providence from every evil during the defenceless hours of sleep, and refreshed with quiet repose, and awake with thee present to our thoughts in the morning. O that we may so measure our days as to know how frail we are and how short our time is.

Regard each of us and of our relations according to our individual wants, and give to each that mercy, grace, and strength we individually require, for our special temptations, dangers, sins, and necessities, according to the fulness of thy love in Jesus our only Lord and Saviour.

VII.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PRAISE FOR MERCY, AND PRAYER FOR FAITH, HOPE,
AND LOVE.

O thou whose eyes are over the righteous and thine ears open to their prayer, through our advocate Jesus Christ the righteous, we, though we have sinned, call upon thee by him, who is the propitiation for our sins. Enable us then to trust only in his name. And while one is speaking with the lips, may the hearts of all with one accord be ascending unto thee in earnest prayer and supplication by Jesus Christ.

We bless thee, O our God, for all the mercies restored to us afresh this morning. We praise, we magnify thy holy name, for the food which nourishes

us, the warmth that cheers us, (the cold that braces us,) the raiment which covers us, the light which shines around us, the air we breathe, the habitation which shelters us, the joy and communion which we have in each other's love, our common salvation, our common hope of glory, our divine Saviour Jesus, our one teacher and sanctifier the Holy Ghost, our one glorious Father, and our one eternal home. How vast the treasure thou hast given to us! What a circle of mercies and blessings surrounds us, how great, how numberless, how eternal! Forgive our ingratitude and disregard of mercies the loss of which would soon bring sorrow and distress upon us. Let us not forget all thy benefits, but daily live to thy praise.

And now we entreat thee to give us that precious gift of faith, by which unseen things shall become living realities, influencing our daily conduct. While we thank thee for goodness so great in all that is past, we commit unto thee all that is before us. We know not what may be our trials and temptations, what unexpected events may arise, but all is known unto thee. Preserve us, then, from the snares of our great enemy. May the world, the flesh, and the devil never seduce, entrap, pollute, or destroy our souls, but may we be kept by thy power through faith unto salvation. Make us ready to every good work, may we show mercy with cheerfulness. May we be prompt to seize opportunities of doing good. Especially let our souls be growing in faith, hope,

and love. And whether health or sickness, sorrow or joy, life or death, ease or suffering be before us, may all be advancing the maturity of our souls for thy heavenly kingdom, and preparing us to be ready for the coming of our Heavenly Lord.

Bless thy church universal. Unite the hearts of thy faithful people as the heart of one man in the belief and love of thy truth. O hasten that day when Satan shall be bruised under our feet, when the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom and possess the kingdom for ever and ever; when sorrow and sighing shall flee away, and those new heavens and that new earth be created wherein dwelleth righteousness.

O Lord, hear us and receive our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

VIII.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND PRAYER FOR HELP; FOR A
BLESSING ON RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

Almighty God, our most merciful Father, who gavest thy Son Jesus to suffer for our sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to thee; may thy Holy Spirit so teach us what he has done for us, that with our whole hearts we may come to thee in entire confidence and joyful love.

Gratefully we acknowledge together thy loving-kindnesses in the day that is past. How constant

and how good is thy providence to us! How rich and how free is thy grace! How full thy love in all thy dealings with us! Nor can we doubt of thy love to us sinners, when we know that Christ died for our sins and rose again for our justification.

But, O Lord, how unmindful have we been this day of thy presence, thy will, and thy glory. Christ ought to dwell in our hearts by faith, but vain thoughts and earthly occupations, and the vanities of this world, have filled our minds and shut out the Saviour. We come then to thee for pardon and peace. Sprinkle afresh the blood of Jesus upon our consciences. May we wash our robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb.

And give us grace with full purpose of heart to yield ourselves more entirely to thee for the time to come. O may we love thee unfeignedly, and serve thee unreservedly, and with our whole hearts; walking before thee in all thy ways with an upright and willing mind.

May we fulfil cheerfully, as unto the Lord, every duty which we owe to each other, as masters ruling in thy fear, as servants serving the Lord Christ, as parents bringing up our children for thee, as children obedient to our parents in the Lord. Thus may thy name be glorified in our consistent Christian course day by day.

We thank thee for all that thou art doing by religious societies both at home and abroad. Lord,

prosper every design to do good to the bodies or to the souls of men; all efforts for building churches; maintaining ministers of Christ, spreading either thy holy word or edifying books, sending missionaries to Jews or to Gentiles. Bless all who conduct, support, or labour in these societies, and may they all be effective for promoting thy glory in the salvation of our fellow-men.

Again we commend ourselves to thy care. Watch over us as a family for good; may no change occur amongst us without its designed blessing being realized to us, may we every day be dearer to each other and more ready to fulfil the law of Christ by bearing each other's burdens.

O hear us, and answer us, according to the fulness of thy mercy in Christ Jesus. Amen.

IX.

THURSDAY MORNING.

TO RECEIVE OUT OF GOD'S SUFFICIENCY WHAT WE
NEED.

Almighty Father, our one, our heavenly Parent, in the name of Jesus Christ we approach unto thee, desiring to see by faith thee who art invisible, and to have access, unto thee through one Spirit. Thou art the Lord, the Holy One, the Creator of Israel, our King, and besides thee there is no Saviour.

O Lord, our minds are dull and cold towards thee,

our affections are grovelling, our souls cleave to the dust, and in many things we have all offended in thy sight. We believe that thou hast given all things pertaining to life and godliness to us in Christ Jesus, and we come to thee for pardon, for life, and for strength. Enable us to discern the reality of heavenly and eternal things, to receive thy grace with a glad heart, and by faith in the Son of God, to overcome the world. In the midst of our folly pity us, and spare us, and impart to us heavenly wisdom. In our weakness may thy strength be perfected. Enable us to live in the constant recollection of the judgment to come, and remembering the solemn account thus to be rendered, may we now live in thy fear, and may we obey thy commands all the days of our life. Give us that which thou seest good, though we know it not, and even dread it as evil. Take from us that which thou seest to be evil, though we may ignorantly desire it. Supply all our need out of thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Enlighten our minds to know Jesus Christ as the precious gift of God, and, in the full knowledge of Christ, may we now seek from that Saviour the living water that springeth up to everlasting life.

O thou who sparedst not thine own Son, assuring us thereby that thou wilt with him give us all things; we ask especially for spiritual blessings and heavenly graces, and a large heart of love to all men, not loving in word and in tongue, but in deed and in

truth, that we may know we are of the truth, and assure our hearts before thee; we entreat thee to make us a full blessing to our fellow-creatures.

About to enter upon the duties which thou hast this day given to us to walk in, we ask grace to fulfil them in thy name; and to seek thy glory as the one great end of all to be done by us. May we all live as in thy presence; each occupying his talent in fulfilling his work appointed by thee, and in every thing seeking to do thy will. Deliver us from a complaining, dissatisfied, and murmuring spirit, and give us a glad, grateful and thankful heart, filled with real love to thee.

Bless our family, our neighbourhood, our church, our country, and all in authority over us. Guard us from all foes and all dangers, whether national or spiritual. Bless thy people Israel, and enlarge thy kingdom continually, till the whole earth rejoice in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hear us for his name's sake, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory now and evermore. Amen.

X.

THURSDAY EVENING.

THANKSGIVING FOR CHRIST, PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND FOR HELP TO THE AFFLICTED.

O most merciful and heavenly Father, give unto us thy quickening grace, that now, when we bow

our knees unto thee, we may fully believe that thou art here present, and a rewarder of all them that diligently seek thee. O give us thine own Spirit, that we may come before thee not in form, but in power; not in carelessness, but in reverence; not with a doubtful mind, but in full confidence of heart, looking to him who is at thy right hand, ever living to make intercession for us.

We praise together thy goodness for all our daily mercies: our temporal blessings are all from thee, our religious privileges we owe to thy free favour, our spiritual blessings are all thy gift. But most emphatically and above all we bless thee for the great gift, the peculiar gift, the most surprising of all gifts, thy only-begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; who came into the world for us sinners; and took upon him our nature, sympathizing with us, redeeming us, and assuring us thereby that thou wilt with him also freely give us all things.

In his name then we ask for a yet farther gift, infinitely needful to us, even thine own Holy Spirit to teach us, to dwell in us, to sanctify us, and to comfort us. May He constantly dwell in us; guarding us from all error on the right hand and on the left, and guiding us into all truth. We farther beseech thee to bestow upon us that precious gift of faith which was imparted to thy servants of old, and by which out of weakness they were made strong, and

overcame the wicked one. Give unto us that most excellent gift of charity, which thinketh no evil, and suffereth long, and is kind, and never faileth. O may we supremely, ardently, and intensely love thee, and delight in thee, and thence love all our fellow-men.

Forgive freely, fully and for ever, all our past sins, as we would now forgive all others who may have trespassed against us. Thou knowest, O Lord, all our sinfulness, temptations and dangers, but there is forgiveness with thee, and thereby thou wilt be feared. May we fear to grieve our God who pardoneth our iniquity, and do Thou assist us effectually to show forth thy praise, by a life devoted to thee.

We pray for the afflicted, the suffering, the cast-down, and the sorrowful. We pray for the stranger, the captive, the tempted, and the endangered. We pray for those who have lost what they valued most on earth, entreating thee thereby to take occasion to give them fuller and richer blessings that shall endure to everlasting life.

May we as a family continually edify each other in love, and may bonds now be knit together, uniting us more and more in Christ Jesus, which shall be lasting as eternity; so that, though our earthly union may be severed for a season, our spiritual and heavenly union may be perfected and completed for ever, in thy coming kingdom and glory, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XI.

FRIDAY MORNING.

GRACE SOUGHT THROUGH CHRIST FOR OURSELVES,
OUR CHURCH, AND OUR COUNTRY.

O thou good and gracious God, who hast so loved our lost world that thou gavest thine only-begotten Son to be a sacrifice for our sins—we thy sinful creatures, redeemed by his blood, come unto thee by that once crucified and now exalted Lord and Saviour. Draw us, and we will run after thee. O take possession of our whole souls, and make us willing to give ourselves unreservedly unto thee.

Give unto us pardon, peace and holiness, and all those things which thou seest to be needful and good for our souls, and turn away from us wrath and condemnation and sin, and all those things which thou seest to be hurtful to us. We indeed deserve not the good, and justly merit the evil; but Jesus appears as a Lamb slain in the midst of the throne in heaven for us; he is worthy to receive all good, and we ask all in his name.

Assist us each to go through our appointed duties this day. May we study to be quiet, and each in our station to do our own business, and to work with our own hands. Impress so strongly upon our minds the sense of our utter insufficiency to think any thing good of ourselves, that we may constantly

be looking to thee for strength. Help us to be patient in trials, persevering in difficulties, meek under injuries, forbearing under provocations, and firm amidst temptations. May we resist the devil, overcome the world, and crucify the flesh. May none of us fail in our duties to each other. May we look not on our own things only, but on the things of others also; help us to warn the unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, and be patient towards all, ever following that which is good amongst ourselves and towards all men.

We pray especially for the church of Christ in our country, and for all the ministers of the gospel. May all discern their great responsibility, as belonging to a church thou hast so favoured in this land from age to age, and especially in our repeated deliverances from the apostacy of Rome.

And O look upon this nation which thou hast so highly exalted among all nations, and to which thou hast given such extended dominion and power and such wide-spread opportunities of being useful to all nations. May our beloved country, generally and nationally, rise to that high and blessed office to which she is now called, of diffusing the glorious light of thy gospel through the world. May our President be as a Cyrus to returning Israel; may our statesmen be like Daniel and Nehemiah, ruling in thy fear and faith and love: and may holiness to the Lord be inscribed on all our possessions, commerce

and wealth, that thus we may be a full blessing to every land through Jesus Christ, our all-sufficient Helper and Redeemer. Amen.

XII.

FRIDAY EVENING.

TO KNOW AND LOVE GOD. FOR OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
AND THE CHURCH.

O Everlasting God, the Lord of heaven and of earth; the King eternal, immortal, and invisible; the only wise God; the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give us now to see thee as thou art, and to delight ourselves in thee, that we may have those desires of our hearts which we would now spread before thee in prayer.

Give us by thine own Spirit the full assurance of faith that Jesus has reconciled both Jew and Gentile unto thee in one body, by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby. May we acquaint ourselves thus with thee and be at peace. Circumcise our hearts to love thee. May we joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the atonement, and may this joy be our strength.

We acknowledge, with shame and humiliation, that we are sinful and helpless creatures, guilty and wretched, polluted and unclean, in thy sight; yet by Jesus, even such are invited to approach unto thee, and encouraged to hope for thy saving grace. O visit us then with thy salvation; satisfy us early with thy mercy.

Give unto us a firm and steadfast mind to walk in newness of life, to do all to thy glory, and to set the Lord always before us, in all our daily occupations, even the humblest. May we be assured that they are really appointed for us by him who knows what is best for us, and who has pleasure in his saints, fearing him and showing their love to him in the diligent fulfilment of their daily duties.

O help us to remember the solemn testimony of thy word, that the end of all things is at hand; and thence to be sober, to watch unto prayer, and above all things to have fervent charity towards others, even that charity that covers the multitude of sins. May we also be clothed with humility, may we be pitiful and courteous, and show forth all Christian graces, to the glory of thy name and the good of all around us.

Bless our family; according to the necessities of each one, as manifest in thy sight, give to each one suitable and seasonable grace and help. And if any of us are yet unconverted, O give thou to them a new heart and a new spirit, and strengthen and renew all our souls for thy service.

Bless our neighbourhood, its ministers and people, its schools and religious societies, its rich and its poor, the prosperous and the afflicted, the sick and the dying, giving to each the good thou seest they severally need.

Bless the whole church and family of God every

where. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We pray for the free progress of thy word in all lands. We pray thee to bless all missionaries among Jews or Gentiles, and at length fulfil all thy promises in the universal triumph of the holy and happy kingdom of Jesus through the world. O answer us for his name's sake. Amen.

XIII.

SATURDAY MORNING.

PREPARATION FOR THE SABBATH, AND FOR THE
OVERTHROW OF SATAN.

O righteous God, the God of mercy and pity in Christ Jesus, even to sinful needy creatures like us, who in this day of grace call upon thee, through Christ, receive us now approaching unto thee. Fulfil unto us thy gracious promise, Draw nigh unto God and he will draw nigh unto thee. O give us thine own Spirit, that we may truly draw nigh to thee, not in mere form only, but with a believing, thirsting and loving heart. All thanks and praise, adoration and love be unto thee, O Father, for innumerable mercies day by day multiplied unto us, and especially for the gift of Jesus Christ and his great and free salvation.

Give us thy blessing in all that lies before us this day. May we now receive, out of the fulness of Christ, the Word of life, all that our souls require. O may the lusts of the flesh be mortified and cruci-

fied, may the fruit of the Spirit increase and abound in us. Help us to set the Lord before us in every thing this day, that his will may be our will, to be like him our great desire, and his glory our aim in all we say and do.

Bless thy ministers in their secret studies, prayers, and preparation for their public labours on the morrow. May all that call upon thy name remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy, making this day, every personal and domestic arrangement that will enable them the more devoutly to observe the Sabbath. May the day be set wholly apart for its privileges and duties; and earnestly may we this day in secret seek thy blessing on all the public means of grace on the morrow.

Look upon a world lying in wickedness, in the fulness of thy mercy and compassion. Cut short the days of sin and the triumphs of Satan; bring speedily to an end the usurped dominion of that malignant spirit who now reigns as the god of this world; and hasten the coming and full dominion of the rightful King and Lord, our blessed Redeemer and only Saviour.

We beseech thee regard with thy favour our principal magistrate, and all the ministers of state. We beseech thee give heavenly grace to all ambassadors of Christ, and all appointed to minister in holy things. Continue the blessing of peace, preserve us from entering upon any unrighteous wars or suffering by

unjust aggressions of others. May we be a penitent and believing people, fearing God and working righteousness.

Bless us as a family. May the bonds of family love be multiplied and strengthened, and may they become eternal, by our seeking chiefly and supremely each other's spiritual good. O answer us, for our Redeemer's sake.

XIV.

SATURDAY EVENING.

PRAISE, CONFESSION, AND A BLESSING ASKED FOR
THE SABBATH.

O thou blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who only hast immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen or can see, to thee be honour and power everlasting. We worship thee, we bless thy holy name, and we now together, at thy footstool, exalt, extol and magnify thee, as the one living, true and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, our God and our Saviour.

How wonderful thy love in testifying to us, thy sinful creatures, that whoso offereth thee praise glorifieth thee; and how rich thy grace to us, that thou hast called us out of darkness into thy marvellous light, that we should be a peculiar people to show forth thy praise! In every thing enable us to give thanks unto thee. In every thing may we order

our conversation aright, that thou mayest show unto us thy salvation,

O Lord, another week of mercies innumerable, and, to our deep humiliation, of innumerable sins, is now closing upon us. It cannot be recalled, but thy day of grace continues, and thou givest to all liberally and upbraidest not; give us then pardon and peace, give us repentance and faith, give us holiness and thine own image and likeness.

We ask for a full blessing on the approaching Sabbath. May it be to us a day of great spiritual gain and advantage. May our hearts, prepared of thee and made ready by thy grace, receive thy word into an honest and good heart, and keep it. Give unto us meekness and lowliness, for thou hast said, the meek thou wilt guide in judgment; give us faith, for thou hast said of thy people of old, the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. Teach us to hunger and thirst after righteousness, seeing that thou, O Jesus, hast said that such are blessed and shall be filled.

O may we enter into thy courts with joy and praise, and experience the full truth of thine own word—Blessed are the people that know the joyful sound, they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance; in thy name shall they rejoice all the day, and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. O may this be fulfilled to each one of us.

Bless especially all thy ministers; send them help

from the sanctuary, and strengthen them out of Zion. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy saints shout for joy. Let thy Spirit come down on all the assemblies of thy people in every land, like rain upon the mown grass; and as showers that water the earth. Lengthen out, if it be thy will, the days of peace and tranquillity, that multitudes may at length account that the long-suffering of our God is salvation, and turn to thee. O Lord, grant that thy people may be diligent to be found of thee in peace, without spot and blameless; and a waiting church and bride may be all prepared to go out and meet the returning Bridegroom, even Jesus our beloved Lord and Head, and to enter with him to the marriage-supper of the Lamb. Hear us for his name's sake.

Second Week.

XV.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

PRAISE FOR SABBATH MERCIES.

Almighty Father, who hast revealed thyself to us as the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and

transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty: through Jesus Christ, now sitting at thy right hand, and ever living to make intercession for us, we adore together and magnify thy holy name.

Another Sabbath of grace and mercy now is before us. We bless thee for its many privileges; for thy house open to receive us; thy ministers ready to instruct us; and that we may now peacefully assemble together and worship in thy courts, none making us afraid. We thank thee for that wonderful grace to all that believe in Christ, that thou dost account them a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a peculiar people. May we rise to our high privileges, and ever shew forth thy virtues and praises in the world.

But now, O Lord, we bring before thee our great difficulty and trouble in the midst of our religious privileges. All on thy part is prepared and ready, but we have often found, by sad experience, that we are unready; our minds are carnal, worldly, and earthly. Our souls cleave to the dust. Innumerable vain imaginations and worldly thoughts distract and fill our minds; we lose the sense of thy nearness, and, with the words of prayer on our lips, have innumerable vanities possessing our inner man.

O send thy mighty Spirit into our hearts, effectually to aid us against Satan and our inward foes. May we this day know the power, and reality, and

glory of true prayer, and obtain strength in thy service, and grace to do thy will.

Bless each of us, too, in those opportunities of aiding others in the way to Zion, which thy providence may open before us. May we feel it to be a real privilege, if we can but give the simplest lesson of divine truth to an infant mind, or a poor and ignorant fellow-creature, for whom Jesus has shed his blood, knowing that thou canst make that lesson effectual to the salvation of their souls, and so give us joy in the day of Christ.

Bless all thy people, wherever they meet in thy name or remember thy Sabbath. Whether they be in Europe, Asia, Africa, America, in the countless isles of the sea, or on the trackless ocean; wherever thy people gather together in the name of Jesus, wherever they worship thee; there be with them, and give testimony to the power of thy word and to the blessedness of prayer, and raise their hopes to that rest which remaineth for the people of God. Hear us, for our Redeemer's sake.

XVI.

SUNDAY EVENING.

PRAYER THAT MERCIES MAY NOT BE RECEIVED IN
VAIN, AND CONFESSION OF SINS.

Almighty Father, who from the beginning didst bless and sanctify the seventh day as a day of rest;

divine Redeemer, Lord of the Sabbath, after whom we name this day as the Lord's day, and commemorate thereon thy resurrection from the grave; Holy Spirit the Comforter, who didst on this day impart thy wonderful gifts to the early church of Christ; we praise thee the living and the true God for all thy peculiar goodness to us, in the innumerable privileges and blessings of this holy day. We had not our birth in savage and barbarous lands, or in heathen countries where no Sabbath mercies bless their inhabitants; we had not our birth in Mahommedan or papal apostacy, where the true light of the gospel has ceased to shine; but in thy special kindness to us we had our birth in this favoured protestant land, where thy sabbath is honoured by national and legal protection, and we have such abundant advantages for becoming wise unto salvation. All glory be to thy holy name that these advantages have been continued to us this day, and we have now been partaking of the means of grace in thy house; worshipping with thy people; hearing thy word and singing thy praise.

But, O Lord, help us to remember that Chorazin and Bethsaida heard the preaching of Christ, and rejecting it sunk into lower condemnation than Tyre and Sidon that never heard it. We earnestly entreat thee to grant that we may not receive the grace of God in vain; that we may know that this is the accepted time, the day of salvation; and that every one of us in this our day may know the things which

make for our peace; and follow after peace and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Pardon, then, our innumerable infirmities in thy service. Through our sinfulness even all our worship is polluted and unclean, most humbling and abasing. O cast us not away from thy presence, because of our formality and hypocrisy, which we now mourn before thee; but look upon that great High Priest who with the heavenly censer stands in thy presence, bearing the iniquity of our holy things, and presents all the prayers of thy people unto thee; and by him give unto us, sinful though we be, the great blessings which we have been asking this day.

And, O Lord, pour out of thy Spirit on all flesh. Grant that in all the churches of Christ, throughout the world, the fruit of a faithful ministry of thy word may abound to thy glory. May all thy people grow in knowledge and in holiness; in faith, hope, and love; in nearness to thee; and so in nearness to each other; till at length we all come, in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; to whom with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, three persons and one God, be all honour and glory, now and evermore. Amen.

XVII.

MONDAY MORNING.

FAITH SOUGHT, WITH GRACE TO REMEMBER THE
WORD PREACHED.

Almighty Father, the Father of spirits, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we, thy sinful children, approach now thy throne of grace in the name of thy only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, the first-born among many brethren, the head of the family who is now in thy courts above for us. O give us true and living faith in him; never let us rest in a dead and vain faith, but give us that mighty faith which, clinging to Omnipotence, conquers this world, works by love, and brings forth all righteousness. Enable us to take, each for ourselves, the only true warrant and ground of faith, thine own word; making thy truth our sure confidence, thy commands our guide, and thy covenant our stay and strength; and so by thy precious promises may we become partakers of the divine nature, and escape the corruptions that are in the world through lust.

Preserve us, O Heavenly Father, from the spirit of this world, in its covetousness; from ambition and love of pleasure. Preserve us from the spirit of rashness and presumption, the spirit of enmity and vain glory. O keep us from the vain confidence of the Egyptians, who, following the steps of Israel in the

Red Sea, but not following their faith in thy promise, perished in their presumption. Deliver us from all unbelief, selfishness, self-indulgence, worldliness, and disobedience, and give us self-denial, self-sacrifice, and entire obedience to all thy revealed will.

May the truths which we yesterday heard from thy word be remembered this day, and influence and govern our whole conduct. Let not our hearts be like the way-side, or the stony, or the thorny ground, but make them like the good ground, keeping the word and bringing forth fruit in due season. May we remember the solemn responsibility of our great and many religious privileges, and the fearful wo pronounced on Chorazin and Bethsaida. Especially may we remember our sacramental vows, whether at the baptismal font or at the holy communion; let them not be regarded by us as a light thing, neither let us be slack in fulfilling our vows.

Give us thy blessing in the duties of another day. Whatever we do, may we do it heartily, as unto the Lord and not unto men, and may we have the sense of thy favour to cheer our souls in all that we do. May the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper thou the work of our hands, yea, prosper thou our handy work.

Bless abundantly the labours of thy ministering servants through the world. Bless especially our ministers, [our city,] our neighbourhood. May our fellow-worshippers yesterday, strengthened and re-

freshed by thine ordinances, begin with us in renewed zeal the duties of another week. Comfort all in sorrow. Succour the tempted. Be with the sick and the dying. Visit Israel in mercy. Bring again thy first-begotten Son into the world, and fill the earth speedily with thy glory, through the mediation, and in the triumphant and universal kingdom and dominion of the same, our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and evermore.

XVIII.

MONDAY EVENING.

FOR COMMUNION WITH GOD, AND PARDON IN CHRIST;
PRAISE FOR FAMILY MERCIES.

Almighty Father, who art about our path and about our bed, always present, and acquainted with all our ways, we beseech thee make us ever mindful of thy presence, and give us such a knowledge of thy grace and glory in Christ Jesus, and such an acquaintance with thyself, that we may evermore delight in thee, and find in thy presence fulness of joy. May we know the rich privilege of communion with our Almighty Friend, whose ear is ever open to our cry, and whose hand is ever ready to help and defend us.

We acknowledge together before thee, that in the past day we have all in many things offended in thy

sight, especially by forgetfulness of thee, by impenitence in our sins, by unbelief, by worldliness, and by neglect of thy glory. We have sinned by forsaking thy ways, and by turning every one to our own.

Enable us all to see this our sinfulness in thy sight, and truly to believe each one in our own heart, that Jesus is the only, the all-sufficient propitiation for our sins; and give unto us simple, and true, and lively faith in his blood. O may we all behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world; and, looking unto Jesus, may we find peace and joy, righteousness and strength.

O Lord, we thank thee and give thee glory for all the many mercies which we enjoy. It is through thy goodness that those at the head of this family desire to acknowledge and worship thee, value thy truth, and seek to guide their family as becomes a Christian household. We bless thee for every family mercy, for all our domestic comfort, for the good word of thy truth, translated into the language of the land in which we were born, and so freely and fully circulated amongst us, that every one may hear and read in his own tongue the wonderful works of God.

But above all we thank thee for thy best gift, the Lord Jesus Christ. O may he be daily more precious to our souls, and may we daily become more like him in all things, through the quickening, transforming, and sanctifying grace of thy Spirit, freely given to us through him.

Bless, we beseech thee, all mankind. Bless especially our church and our country, and the church of Christ every where. Unite thy people, as one family, through the world. Multiply the peace-makers, and put an end to strife, debate, and divisions among thy children. Bring the Jews to their own land, and discover to them Jesus as their Messiah. Bless our city, our relations, our Christian friends. Do good to them that hate and injure us, even the best good, by converting and renewing their souls. Multiply blessings on our benefactors, and on all who pray for us. O Lord Jesus, shortly accomplish the number of thine elect, and hasten thy kingdom, for thy name's sake. Amen.

XIX.

TUESDAY MORNING.

TO TAKE UP THE CROSS,—PRAISE FOR EARTHLY AND
HEAVENLY BLESSINGS.

O thou who art a faithful Creator, and hast encouraged and charged us to commit our souls unto thee in well-doing, when suffering as Christians according to thy will, we beseech thee, enable all of us daily to take up our cross, to deny ourselves and follow Christ, casting all our care on thee who carest for us.

We bless thee that thy mercies are renewed to us every morning, and we raise unto thee a new song of thanksgiving for the fresh blessings of this day.

By Jesus our only Mediator and Advocate, who has made full atonement for all our sins, and by whom all things are ours, we offer up our thanksgivings unto thee; sleep and waking, food and clothing, warmth and shelter, social endearment and family blessedness, are all of thee; and by them too would we rise to the higher spiritual blessings with which we are daily blessed, and magnify thee for Jesus Christ our Lord, our best robe, our meat indeed, our surest friend, our light, our refuge, our life and our glory, now and evermore.

Let thy holy word not only be read and heard by us, but be an incorruptible seed of good things, in our hearts and conversation and whole life.

Be with us through this day's duties and trials and joys and sorrows. Make us ready to every good work, and sensitive and quick to discern thy will and to turn from all that is evil. Let the light of a future judgment shine so clearly in our minds as to govern all we say and do. May we keep our conscience and mind pure, exercising ourselves continually to have a conscience void of offence towards God and towards men. May we walk humbly with thee our God, and in every thing do justice and love mercy. Make us thoughtful and considerate of the wants and feelings of others, so that we may rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those that weep, and be merciful after our power, and do good to all, especially to the household of faith. Is it not

thine own assurance to thy people,—ye are the workmanship of God, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that ye should walk in them? O fulfil this blessed truth in our daily life. May we know with full assurance of heart that we are saved by grace through faith, thine own gift, and not of works, that boasting may be excluded. In the joy and strength of this free salvation may we abound in all good works continually, that thy name may be constantly glorified in us and by us.

Guard us from dangers foreseen or unforeseen, preserve us in temptations expected or unexpected, strengthen us where we are weak, and give us so to feel our entire weakness and insufficiency that we may be ever looking to thee for grace and strength.

O Lord, the nations are disquieted and troubled, the world lieth in wickedness; thy wrath is yet to come upon the earth, but thy long-suffering still prolongs the day of grace. O grant that, while the desolating tempest is yet withheld, thy church may be full of zeal and energy, thy people may be sealed and preserved, multitudes may be plucked as brands from the burning, and a great multitude, which cannot be numbered, may wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. Hear us for his name's sake.

XX.

TUESDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION, PRAISE FOR THE SCRIPTURES, AND
PRAYER FOR THEIR DIFFUSION.

O Lord our God, who hast made us, and not we ourselves, and who graciously regardest us as thy people and the sheep of thy pasture, and as the church which thou hast purchased with the blood of thy only-begotten Son, receive our humble supplications, and assist us now by thy Spirit really and fervently to pray unto thee.

We thank thee that thou hast appointed a throne of grace; we thank thee that thine ear is open to our prayers; we thank thee that it is our duty to pray, and that thou, to this very hour, hearest and answerest the prayers of all them that call upon thee.

Great is our sinfulness and multiplied are our wants. God is not in all our thoughts; our affections cling to the world and to the creature; unbelief prevails within us; we dishonour thee by our inconsistencies, our unholy dispositions, our selfishness and our disobedience. We have turned every one to his own way, and are justly exposed to thy awful condemnation.

Help us then truly to see our sinfulness, and really to know and believe, that through Jesus there is forgiveness of all our sins, however numerous, however great. Help us to believe that he was really wound-

ed for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, and that the chastisement of our peace was laid upon him.

And in the full belief of these most precious truths of thy holy word, may we every one of us truly be sorry, from the heart, for so sinning against him who has so greatly loved us. May we have thus that godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of; and that cordial and fervent love which comes from believing that thou hast thus deeply and unquestionably first loved us.

Many have been thy mercies to us, O our God, in the past day. We praise thee for every personal mercy, for every family mercy, for all our domestic comforts. We bless thee for the full light of thy revealed truth, for all its saving doctrines, all its holy precepts, all its instructive history and patterns of holiness, all its profitable threatenings, and all its precious promises. And above all, we thank Thee for Him who is its Alpha and Omega, its sum and substance; Jesus Christ, the light of life, our complete and all-sufficient Saviour.

O may this word of thy grace have free course, and be glorified in all the earth. May it be made known in every tongue and to every people, east and west, north and south, throughout the world. Let there not be one portion of the habitable globe destitute of the saving light of thy truth. May it dispel the superstitions of Popery, the delusions of

Mahomedanism, and the darkness of infidelity. May it revive decayed churches, and be more understood, believed and obeyed in every nation where it is circulated, till at length the Redeemer return, and the knowledge of the glory of the Lord covers the earth as the waters do the sea.

Bless more especially our family connexions and all our relatives; [our city,] our Christian friends, our church and all its ministers, and all the ministers of Christ. Guide our statesmen. Multiply thy grace on all our magistrates. Give spiritual prosperity to our rulers, and make our country a blessing to all lands, through Jesus Christ, the only King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

XXI.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

TO DO ALL IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

O thou who takest to thyself this character, that thou resistest the proud and givest grace to the humble, discover to us, by thine own Spirit, our sinfulness and our ruin, our total corruption and depravity in ourselves; that we may loathe and abhor ourselves, and come in the abased spirit of the publican before thee, crying, each from the deep feeling of his own heart, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Yet give us also that true faith which believes all thy promises, and is confident that nothing can really

fail of what the Lord has spoken, and that the scripture cannot be broken. Thou, O Jesus, hast said, Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. In the name of Jesus we ask of thee, O Father, the Holy Spirit, to abide in us for ever. We ask farther, in the same precious name, the gift of faith, purifying the heart, working by love, and overcoming the world. In the name of Jesus we ask for inward holiness and diffusive usefulness. O give us the joy of being useful to all around us, and especially in their highest and best welfare, their spiritual and eternal good. Yet farther give us, we ask it in the same name, poverty of spirit, humility and lowliness of heart.

May reputation, or wealth, or enjoyments here be small things in our eyes, compared with likeness to Christ, suffering for his sake, and leading others to know and love him who died for us, and who will soon return again, that where he is we may be also.

Grant, O Lord, that whatsoever we do this day, we may do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Help us by all the types and figures of him, given to us in thy word, and on the face of all creation, to realize continually his excellence and goodness. May we see Christ in the sun that shines upon us, in the bread that nourishes us, in the way in which we walk, in the friendship and brotherhood which comfort us, or in the tender relations of married life.

Since he hath said, No man cometh unto the Father but by me, may we especially regard him when worshipping thee, and rejoice in the assurance that Jesus is now in the heavens at thy right hand, making intercession for us; is now exalted, to bestow gifts and blessings even on the rebellious. Give then to us pardon and peace; give unto us a true heart to love thee and serve thee unfeignedly.

Assist us in all the undertakings of this day. May our self-will be subjugated, our self-wisdom be mortified, our pride be humbled and our humility deepened. O may we go through each of our employments in thy faith, fear and love. Let us not seek to please ourselves, but to please thee; let us not pursue our own glory, but thy glory; let us not speak idle, vain, foolish words, but words of soberness and truth; our speech being seasoned with salt, that it may minister grace to the hearers.

Let us look beyond the present moment or the present life, and live in distinct remembrance of what is certainly before us,—the judgment day,—the account to be rendered, and the eternal issues of all we now say and do. And seeing the shortness of time and the great and many uncertainties of this life, may we redeem our time for the great ends for which it was given, thy glory in our salvation and the salvation of all within the reach of our influence and exertion and prayers. Thus help us this day and continually to lay ourselves out for the good of others.

Bless our magistrates. May they rule in righteousness. Greatly hast thou blessed our country in times that are past, and we have not rendered again to the Lord, but have rebelled against him; yet spare us and give us abundant grace, and still more exceedingly bless us in the time to come.

Grant to those in authority over us, heavenly guidance and direction, that error, and sin, and apostacy may be discountenanced and every where checked and put down, and truth and righteousness every where encouraged and advanced. Bless the whole earth, and as it is every where full of thy goodness, so may it also be filled with thy grace, and truth, and righteousness, for our Redeemer's sake.

XXII.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

THE BLESSEDNESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE; GRACE FOR
DUTY.

O merciful and ever-gracious God, our heavenly Father, may all of us, now kneeling together in thy presence, feel in our hearts the glorious truth, that thou art very near to us and really present in the midst of us. May we know that in thee, who art thus present with us, there is all that is exalted and great, all that is wise and mighty, all that is good and blessed, and this for us sinners, by our own Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; and may we thus learn

daily to delight ourselves in thee the Lord, and through Christ approach unto thee with full confidence and holy boldness.

O Lord, take away from us the heart of stone, and give us a heart of flesh; put thy Spirit within us, and cause us to walk in thy statutes; cleanse us from all our sins, and remember our iniquities no more against us. Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us.

We have confidence in thee, that if we ask any thing according to thy will, thou hearest us; and being assured that thou hearest us, whatsoever we thus ask, O may we know and believe that we have the petitions which we desire of thee, and may we ask of thee, nothing doubting.

We beseech thee to give us grace to fulfil each relative duty, as parent and child, as master and servant, as kindred and friends, as pastor and flock; whether having authority or under authority. O may we each discern our own immediate duty and fulfil it as in thy sight, and not be busy with the duties or concerns of others, but apply ourselves patiently, faithfully, and constantly to do our own work, according to thy holy will. May we submit ourselves to one another in the fear of God; and be clothed with humility, humbling ourselves under thy mighty hand, with the blessed hope of being in due time exalted by thee.

And, O Lord, we praise together thy holy name,

and acknowledge together thy loving-kindness to us, thy sinful creatures. We admire and extol the riches of thy forbearance and long-suffering towards us, in sparing us when we deserved punishment; in giving us benefits when we deserved thine anger and judgments. O Lord, blessed be thou for all thy protecting care over us, all thy providing love for us, all thy redeeming grace in Christ Jesus, and all the precious gifts of thy Spirit promised to us through him; and for that great promise which thou hast promised us, even eternal life in Christ Jesus. Thy mercies by day and thy mercies by night, thy mercies to ourselves and our family, to our church and to our country, and thy whole church and the whole world—how great they are! even more in number than the stars of heaven, or the sand on the sea-shore! All praise then be to thee, the one great Giver of all good gifts, now and evermore. Still continue these thy blessings to us and others, and make us more mindful of them and more grateful for them.

We now commit ourselves to thy care as a family this night. Guard us from all evil, either to body or to soul. May no fire consume us, no robbers disturb us, no sickness alarm us. Refresh us with quiet sleep. Renew both our bodily and our spiritual strength: O may we thus be more and more prepared, not only for duties in this life, but for the morning of the resurrection and the day of eternal glory, through our only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

XXIII.

THURSDAY MORNING.

DEPENDENCE ON GOD, AND PRAYER FOR THE
AFFLICTED.

Almighty Father, by thy only-begotten Son, who took upon him our nature and became man for us, having all the sympathies of our humanity, and yet one with thee, even God over all blessed for ever; by him, the door of the sheep, through whom alone we can enter into the fold; by him, the way, the truth and the life, by whom alone we can come to thee—we appear again in thy presence.

O what abounding reasons have we, as a family, for daily praises and constant prayer! Continually renewed are the mercies which thy loving-kindness bestows upon us. Daily growing and increasing are thy blessings. O help us to see, and not only to see, but to acknowledge thy love in every thing, even in that which is now dark and painful to us, knowing that all is ordered by him whose brief but glorious and comprehensive description, for our unspeakable and eternal comfort, is—**GOD IS LOVE.**

We know, O our God, that we are dependent altogether on thee in all things. Blessed be thy name, through thee alone all others are, or can be, blessings to us. We acknowledge joyfully before thee, that we are not dependent on man, or on any son of

man, for good; we are not exposed defenceless to the hatred of wicked men or devils; but for life, for death, for sorrow or for joy, for riches or for poverty, for health or for sickness, and all things, we have simply and wholly to look unto thee. The Lord killeth and maketh alive; he bringeth down to the grave and bringeth up. The Lord maketh poor and maketh rich; he bringeth low and lifteth up. Our choicest gifts in times past have come unlooked-for and unexpectedly, and directly from thy love; and especially those best gifts, thy word, to guide us to Christ, thy only Son himself, and thine Holy Spirit.

Give us now thy help in the duties, the dangers, the perplexities and the anxieties of the day. Teach us how to guide all our affairs with discretion, to be slow to speak, swift to hear, and ready to every good work. May our leisure hours or moments not be lost in vain and frivolous trifling, in foolish books or converse, but redeemed by acquiring fresh knowledge of thy works and of thy word, or in useful intercourse with others.

As our Redeemer took up his cross and endured contradiction of sinners against himself for our sake, so may we follow him in his self-denying course here, and look, as he did, to the joy set before us. Remembering that the cross is the way to the crown, the path of self-denial to true life and enjoyment, and that the gate and the way which are narrow, straight, and difficult, lead to real liberty here and

eternal glory hereafter,—may we choose the cross and self-denial, and enter in at the straight gate, and walk in the narrow way to eternal life.

We pray for all in affliction, whatever be its cause, whether infirmities of body or of spirit; whether sickness or losses, or death of those dear to them, whether poverty, or pain, or persecution, whether they be tempted by Satan, deceived by man, or cast down in despair by many sins, or burdened in guilt; whether prisoners or captives, strangers or foreigners, friendless or shipwrecked in distant lands. O look upon all in their respective necessities; give them strength and grace suited to them; make all things work together for their good and the good of others, and then give them a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

Bless our own neighbourhood, [our city,] our schools, our communicants, our visiters of the poor, our religious societies, our ministers, and all efforts for the temporal and spiritual good of those who dwell around us. Bless our whole country, and our government in church and state. [Preserve our Protestant constitution, and may it be continued to generations yet to come, even till our Redeemer returns to bless the whole earth.] Hear us for his name's sake. Amen.

XXIV.

THURSDAY EVENING.

FOR A SENSE OF ETERNAL REALITIES.

O thou, who hast revealed thyself to us as the God of all grace, when from our sins we might justly have expected to have heard of thee only as the God of judgment and of wrath, help us to come unto thee who art waiting to be gracious to those that call upon thee with all confidence of heart.

Glory, glory for ever be to thy holy name. Thou art great above all that is great on earth or in heaven; and good above all that is good in others; and excellent beyond all that is or can be excellent in created beings; for all were formed by thee and for thee, and every good that any other has, or can have, is only thy gift. Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be to thee who sittest on the throne, and to the Lamb for ever. We praise thee for all that thou art, we magnify thee for all thy glorious perfections, O thou who art the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God our Saviour.

Brought in thy love safely to the close of another day, we confess our many sins against thee and against our fellow-creatures, and implore thy free forgiveness. Give us all to believe in the name of Jesus, and so to be justified from all things through his redemption.

Grant us such a lively sense of our real situation here, that we may duly and constantly feel that time is short, eternity infinitely long, and close at hand; that any moment may transport us into that spiritual and invisible world which is before us, and into the immediate presence of thee our God. Help us never to forget that our life is a vapour that passeth away; that here we have no continuing city, and all our trials are but transient and momentary, and yet that on the right employment of this short moment depends that favourable sentence in the great judgment-day, which fixes our future state, through a never-ending eternity. Help us then to flee with all earnestness from the wrath to come. Help us with all firmness and perseverance to lay hold on eternal life. Help us now with all steadfast patience to follow peace and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. And that we may thus strive, O give us, by thine own Spirit, faith in Jesus, spiritual-mindedness, and let us never be weary in well-doing. May that Spirit be in us, an ever-abiding guide and comforter, teacher and sanctifier.

Bless all among whom we dwell, and our relatives every where, and all our friends. Look especially in mercy and love upon the sick and afflicted, and succour the tempted. Regard all in distress of mind, body, or estate. Bless our native land and all its states and territories. Preserve peace among the nations, that the gospel may freely circulate in

all lands. Greatly increase, and multiply, and prosper the efforts of thy servants to spread abroad thy truth on every side.

Prepare thy church for the return and judgment and kingdom of our great Lord and Head, Jesus Christ. May he find a waiting people longing for his appearance, and all ready to meet him, and may an abundant entrance be ministered to us into his everlasting kingdom. O gracious Father, receive and answer these our prayers, not for our worthiness, but for the alone merit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

XXV.

FRIDAY MORNING.

GRACE TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN TRIAL AND REPROACH.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light that, coming into the world, enlighteneth every man; who hast given us thy word to be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our paths, grant that we may take heed to that light by day and by night, and walk in its clear and pure brightness, till we reach our heavenly and eternal home, and rejoice in thy presence for ever.

O thou good and gracious God, who for us gavest up thy only Son Jesus to the cross as the way to the crown, and to be a partaker of sufferings that he might inherit eternal glory, give us grace cheerfully to follow him now; preferring self-denial to self-

indulgence, and choosing shame for his name's sake rather than the honour that cometh from man. Oh may we patiently endure trials in his ways, rather than follow the course of this world, however distinguished by outward glories, and carnal gratifications and pleasures; and let us not follow the multitude still going in the broad road that leads to destruction. Grant that we may not withdraw from thy ways because they are evil spoken of, nor be ashamed of the gospel because it is reproached, but rather may we count the reproach of Christ to be greater riches than all the treasures of this world.

Take from us also all conceit of any goodness or righteousness, wisdom or strength in ourselves. If in any thing we differ from others, all glory altogether be to thee who hast made us to differ, and may we be deeply humbled because thy grace to us has not been far more diligently used to thy glory. Lord, forgive our great unfaithfulness and unprofitableness. We desire only to glory in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to exalt him alone, and we earnestly pray that all our fellow-sinners may be partakers of the benefits which Jesus has bought for us with his blood. O Lord, thou knowest all the secret sins of our hearts, as well as our secret groanings under our corruptions and thirstings after thy grace; break not the bruised reed, quench not the smoking flax, till thou bring forth judgment unto victory. Take away from us pride, vanity, and high-mindedness; remove

all our unbelief, negligence, indifference, and coldness of heart towards thee, and all worldly-mindedness. Cleanse our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee and worthily magnify thy holy name. Deliver our souls from all the entanglements of sin, and take us 'out of the mire and filthiness of this evil world, and place us firmly and immoveably on Christ, the rock of ages, the only sure foundation.

Be with us this day. Do us good, even the best good, good to our souls. Let all our hours be employed for thee, so that we may do nothing on which we cannot ask thy blessing, and in which we cannot enjoy thy presence. Especially may we be watchful to avoid evil, to do good, to be helpful to the souls of others, and also watch against all inconsistency of conduct in our high and holy calling as the children of God.

Bring back thy people Israel to their own land. Speedily gather in thine elect from all lands, and complete the first fruits unto God and the Lamb, in whose mouth shall be found no guile, and who shall be without fault before the throne of God. Prepare thy people to glorify thy holy name in the fires of tribulation, and keep them from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. And, at length, let the tabernacle of thee our God be with men, and do thou dwell with them; and let them be thy people, and the whole earth be filled with thy glory.

O gracious Father, thanks, eternal thanks, be unto thee for all the aboundings of thy grace and goodness towards us in what is past, and what is present, and what thou hast promised in the ages to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

XXVI.

FRIDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION OF DAILY SINS—PRAYER FOR ABSENT FRIENDS.

Almighty Father, now present in the midst of us, and full of grace and goodness to all who seek thee, and who hast given so many precious promises to all who call upon thee, grant us grace to believe that thou art truly here, and that thou art the sure rewarder of them who diligently seek thee, through our one Mediator Jesus Christ.

We confess that however in the eyes of our fellow men we may have been blameless and faultless, we have sinned greatly against thee this day. Duties justly owing to thee have been omitted or negligently fulfilled; sins against thee and against each other have been committed in thy sight by each of us. By unbelief, by hardness of heart, by vain thoughts, by idle words, by mis-spent time and talents, by lost opportunities, we have all offended before thee. O deal not with us after our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquities, but deal with us according

to the abundance of thy tender mercies, and the multitude of thy loving kindnesses, and raise us at length to that blessed devotedness to thee which thy law has set before us.

Thou hast graciously declared, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. According, therefore, to thine own sovereignty and overflowing bounty have mercy, and have compassion upon us thy sinful creatures; give unto us thy heavenly grace to teach us our sinfulness, and to help us to look to our all-sufficient Saviour, to uphold our goings in his paths, to strengthen us against all our spiritual foes, and to bless us by turning every one of us from our iniquities.

Give us especially the spirit of knowledge and understanding, of faith and love. O grant us much true Christian love; love to God and love to man; that living in love we may dwell in thee, and thou thyself mayest dwell in us. Give us peace within and peace without; and let us as much as lieth in us live peaceably with all men, and follow after the things which make for peace, and the things whereby we may edify one another.

Take care of us all during the defenceless hours of the night. We desire to feel that we have no real safety, but as thou who never slumberest nor sleepest watchest over us; and that no evil can come nigh us while thou art our keeper. We commit, there-

fore, ourselves, and all that are dear to us, unto thy watchful providence.

Bless all our relations and friends. Some are widely scattered from us; but all are under thine eye and in thy presence, so that while we are here praying to thee, thou who art with them canst at this moment, in answer to our prayers, do good to them and bless them. We entreat thee now to give to each that defence and succour, that help and blessing, which they severally need.

O Lord, who hast given us the gracious title of the Lord's remembrancers and watchmen, and hast charged us to give thee no rest till thou make Jerusalem a praise in the earth, give us a deep interest in that which is thus dear to thee; give us ardent desires for the restoration and salvation of thy people Israel. Fulfil all the rich promises given in thy word unto them, that so the heathen may fear thy name, and all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God.

We thank thee, O our Father, from the heart, for the full propitiation made by the death of Jesus for the sins of the whole world. We thank thee for the precious assurance that all the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. We bless thee for the promise which we look for, of new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. For the speedy return of our Re-

deemer; for the future resurrection of the dead saints, and the glorious change of those that are alive; and for the eternal glory yet to be revealed in the last days, all praise, and honour, and adoration be unto thee, O Father, who livest and reignest with the Son and the Holy Ghost, one eternal God, for ever and ever. Amen.

XXVII.

SATURDAY MORNING.

PRAISE FOR FAMILY WORSHIP—PRAYER FOR GIVING
UP OURSELVES TO GOD.

O thou that art ever with us, and hearest the prayers of all that call upon thee, enable us now to partake of our highest privilege and blessing in this life, communion with thee through Jesus Christ. We cannot of ourselves attain it, but thy precious promise has assured to us the aid of thy Spirit. O may that Spirit now help our infirmities, and raise our inward affections to thyself, and may we come unto thee thirsting and longing after thy presence.

O Lord, what thanks we owe to thee that in thy goodness we have been drawn thus to meet together in family worship! Thou hast taught us that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps; and thou hast revealed thy purpose of pouring out thy fury upon the families that call not upon thy name. We bless thee, then,

that in thy goodness family prayer has been established amongst us, and thy word is daily brought before us. Only grant thy grace, that our service may never sink into a mere outside form, but may be a spiritual service, humbling us as well as quickening and strengthening us; bringing us as a family into real fellowship with thyself; leading us to prize Christ, our only Saviour, to glory in him, and to follow his holy example.

Again we renew our thanksgivings unto thee for all thy continual loving-kindness bestowed upon us. If of old there were those who were appointed to praise thee because thy mercy endureth for ever,* and when all united in this, the glory of the Lord filled thy house;† much more should we, under the richer blessings of the Gospel, and called out of darkness into thy marvellous light, show forth thy goodness, and raise, morning by morning, and evening by evening, fresh songs of praise unto thee our God. We do as a family with one accord exalt and magnify thy holy name for those many blessings, the gifts of thy love, which we now daily together enjoy.

Oh grant, we entreat thee, that thy mercies may constrain us to give up ourselves unto thee. Give, O give unto each of us, entire devotedness of heart to our God. May we yield up ourselves unto thee as those that are alive from the dead, and all our members as instruments of righteousness in thy free

* 1 Chron. xvi. 41.

† 2 Chron. vi. 13, 14.

and happy service. O blessed Jesus, the Son of God, and the Son of man, do thou make us free that we may be free indeed. May the thoughts of our hearts be consecrated unto God. May the powers of our understanding be employed for him. May all our inward faculties and all the affections of the heart be occupied for God, and turned wholly to thee. May our meditation of thee be sweet to us. May our ears hear for thee. May our tongues speak for thee, and our hands work for thee, and our feet walk for thee and with thee. O teach us effectually that we are bought with a price, even the blood of Jesus; and constrain us thereby to seek in every thing to glorify thee in our body and in our spirit, which are thine.

Bless thy ministers every where, and especially those whom thou hast appointed to watch over our souls, in preparing for their sacred work of instructing thy people. Give them heavenly direction in their subjects, and furnish them with those thoughts and those divine truths, and that utterance of them, which shall be most seasonable and profitable for all who hear them. May each in his generation and in his station be a full blessing to thy church, bringing thy people to a prepared and waiting state for the appearing and kingdom of Christ.

Every where multiply grace upon thy people, and add to them continually. May all who love thee be more and more brought to be like-minded, having

the same love, and be of one accord and of one mind, so that the world may believe that Jesus was sent of the Father, and all may know him even from the least to the greatest. Hear us, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XXVIII.

SATURDAY EVENING.

PREPARATION FOR CHRIST'S COMING—PRAYER FOR
MINISTERS.

O Lord our God, how excellent is thy name in all the earth. Thou hast set thy glory above the heavens, and what is man that thou art mindful of him, or the Son of man that thou visitest him! How wonderful was that love that thou didst show to the world, in sending thy only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. O give unto us grace ever to believe in Jesus, and readiness, if need be, to suffer for his sake.

Brought by thy goodness to the end of this week, we desire humbly to confess the many sins which we have committed, and how far we have all of us come short of thy glory. None of us are righteous, none of us have of ourselves done good, no, not one. We have all erred and strayed from thy ways, and each one has turned to his own way.

But it is thy faithful promise that if we confess

our sins thou art just and faithful to forgive us, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We ask for this double blessing; forgiveness and cleansing. Pardon all our sins. Create in us a clean heart.

Lord, increase our faith, quicken our watchfulness, enable us to pray always. Make us like the wise virgins, that while we have time we may gather oil, even the oil of thy truth in our lamps. Give us that unction from the Holy One, that we may know all things. And when the cry shall be heard, Behold the Bridegroom cometh, may we all be ready and prepared at once to go and meet him.

Give us a full blessing through the whole of the Sabbath on the morrow. May it be to each of us a quickening, strengthening, and instructive Sabbath for our souls. Let us not rest in the mere form of godliness, and an outside show of religion, but give us all its living reality, its inward power, and its mighty energy; making us new creatures, so transforming us that we may prove what is thy good and acceptable and perfect will.

O Lord, when we look back on past Sabbaths, on cold and formal prayers, and hearts dull and lifeless in thy service, we greatly fear lest we should thus again dishonour thee, who art a Spirit, and who requirest that those who worship thee should worship thee in spirit and in truth. Thou knowest our weakness. Thou knowest how full we are of vain imaginations and distracting thoughts; O assist us then

with thy all-sufficient help and strength, and thyself enable us to draw nigh to thee, and do thou draw nigh to us, that we may have real communion with thee in thy house and service.

Bless the pastors of thy flock, the missionaries to Jew and Gentile, and the teachers of thy truth through the world. O that they may go forth in thy name and strength; may every where declare first of all that Christ died for our sins, and every where glory in his cross. May this saving doctrine be the power of God unto the salvation of innumerable precious souls. Thus send the gospel of thy grace on its glorious errand of mercy through the wide world, and to every nation, kindred, people, and tongue, gathering thine elect from every land, till the fulness of the Gentiles be come in, and all Israel be saved.

Give us now sweet rest to refresh us, and fit our bodies to fulfil the sacred duties of the Sabbath. May we lie down with thee in our last thoughts, and may we awake in the morning still present with thee, through our only and complete Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Third Week.

XXIX.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

A UNIVERSAL SABBATH DESIRED.

O Lord, the God of heaven and of earth, who sittest in the highest heavens on a throne of glory, surrounded by cherubim and seraphim, angels and arch-angels, and all the glorified hosts above, ever singing thy praise and magnifying thee; and yet who condescendest to regard the feeblest cry of the needy, and the prayers of thy sinful creatures now assembled at thy mercy-seat; enable us to perceive and be assured that prayer unto thee is our richest privilege and our greatest honour.

We do indeed mourn before thee that most sad and affecting proof of our depravity, that we are so backward to this blessed duty, and so soon weary of it. Deeply ought we to be humbled in thy sight, that so often there is hardly any occupation in which we can engage wherein our spirit so soon flags, our thoughts so soon wander, which we are so reluctant to commence, and so ready to give up as prayer unto thee. If in happy times it be otherwise, and we realize our true honour, privilege, and blessedness

in communion with thee, what thanks are due to thee! O that we may this day find it thus good to draw near unto God.

O Lord, who hast made the Sabbath for man, hasten the time when not one weary soul in this world shall be without the blessedness of this day of rest; when there shall be no bearing of burdens, no toiling in earthly occupations, no buying nor selling; but holy joy and gladness, prayer and praise, and growth in divine knowledge, and communion of saints in every place; when all men shall hallow thy Sabbaths and they shall be a sign by which all may know that thou art the Lord their God.

O hasten the time when thy name shall be great among the Gentiles, and in every place incense shall be offered unto thy name and a pure offering; when one holy Sabbath of rest shall comfort, and bless, and sanctify the whole earth, and the sun of righteousness shine forth on every nation, every city, every village, every dwelling, and every heart.

Lord, when shall it once be! Now when thou lookest upon our earth, thou beholdest a world lying in wickedness; thy glorious name, unknown or forgotten, insulted or blasphemed: thy Sabbaths profaned and despised; thy word set aside and mocked. Thou seest all the idolatries even of professedly Christian lands, which dishonour thee in the worship of saints, and images, and pictures; and in those who renounce open superstitions thou seest the more spi-

ritual but not less real idolatry of lovers of the creature, lovers of pleasure and of gold more than of thee. And so the hearts of men are fully set in them to do evil, and they depart from thee, the living God.

Lord, give us such understanding in thy word that we may discern these things according to its light, and take thine own view of all things done on earth, and be among those who mourn for sin, especially our own sin, and sigh for the abominations that are committed, and thirst for the return of our Redeemer and his universal kingdom. May we also have grace so to do thy will as thine own children, that we may now be the salt of the earth, a salt not losing its own savour, but seasoning others, and preserving them from corruption.

Grant that this sabbath may be a day of real spiritual profit and edification. May all its sacred hours be occupied with thee. May our minds be enlightened by thy word, and may that word only be the ground of our faith, and may we all bring every thing we hear to the law and to the testimony that thou hast given, and, like the Bereans, search the scriptures, whether these things are so.

Bless all thy ministers in every place. We rejoice in thy goodness in raising up and sending forth the thousands of faithful labourers that this day will go forth and stand up to declare thy truth. Stand by them and assist them; set a watch over their mouths; open thou their lips to speak thy truth dis-

tinety, fully and boldly, so that thy people may be built up, sinners converted, the weak strengthened, and the sorrowful every where comforted, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

XXX.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

PRAISE FOR SABBATH MERCIES,—THE HEAVENLY
SABBATH DESIRED.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, accept, in the name of Jesus Christ, our hearty thanksgivings for all the blessings of this thy holy day. Thou hast called us in every thing to give thanks. We bless thee for preserving mercy, for health and for sickness, for strength and for weakness, for mercies and for trials, and for all the steps by which thou art leading us to thy heavenly kingdom.

We bless thee for thy preached word, thy holy baptism in the name of Jesus, thy holy table, thy worship in prayer, and praise, and intercession; the communion with saints on earth, and with angels and the church triumphant in heaven. We thank thee for any opportunities of teaching and helping the young, the ignorant, the sick, or the aged, rejoicing that it is allowed to thy people to do good on the Sabbath-day.

Help us all, O Lord Jesus, to look forward to that blessed place which thou art preparing for us in the

many mansions above, and bring us all to that happy and eternal home. Oh may we love thee more and more, who didst die for us, who art now thinking of us, and interceding for us. May thy love, O Christ, constrain us to live unto thee, and may we lay aside every weight, and each easily besetting sin, and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking constantly unto the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Poor indeed, and feeble, unworthy and polluted are all our services and worship, and might justly rather bring down upon us thy wrath than thy blessing. But enable us, O heavenly Father, to fix our eyes more upon thy mercy-seat in the heavens, and by faith in the merits of Jesus may we find peace and strength.

O Lord, prepare our hearts for all thy righteous and gracious dealings, as revealed in thy word. Grant that Israel may blossom and bud and fill the face of the earth with fruit; that Zion may arise and shine, and the Gentiles come to her light and kings to the brightness of her rising. May we be counted worthy to escape all those things that shall come upon this sinful world, and to stand before the Son of Man. May we be freed from all corruption, and share that kingdom, promised to thy saints, which shall not be moved. Fulfil thine own glorious promises, and hasten thy coming and thy manifested glory through the world.

Gracious Father, abundantly bless all the labours

of thine own ministers and the faithful stewards of thy mysteries in all the churches of Christ. O let not thy word return unto thee void. Give it an abundant increase.

O let not prayer be any where made in vain; but give the spirit of grace and supplication to all thy assembled people, and every where may it come up as a memorial before thee. Every where may Jesus our High Priest, receive the supplications of a believing people, and by his own prevailing intercession obtain full answers of peace, and grace, and love.

O Lord, by thy earthly Sabbaths enable us to rise more to the hope, the foretaste and earnest of the heavenly Sabbath, where there is no absence of God to mourn, no cessation of service to grieve; but without weariness, or distraction, or interruption, thy people serve thee day and night, and see thy face, and thy name is on their foreheads, and they go no more out, and they reign for ever and ever.

May this be the happy, the everlasting portion of each one of us, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Mediator and Advocate.

XXXI.

MONDAY MORNING.

PRAISE FOR MORNING MERCIES,—FAMILY BLESSEDNESS SOUGHT.

O Lord our God, we will give thee thanks for ever; while we have any being we will sing praises

unto thy name. Abundant reason have we to do so. What an unspeakable mercy it is that creatures so sinful and so perverse and ungrateful as we have been, can yet, in this day of grace, come into thy holy presence, and know that thou art reconciled to us by the cross of Jesus, and wilt receive us as thy sons and thy daughters. Behold we come unto thee, for thou art the Lord our God.

Together we unite in praising thee for all the renewed mercies of another morning; light and life, health and peace, food and raiment, home and shelter, warmth and comforts, family union and social love, and all the dear relations of domestic life are from thy goodness, and all redeemed for us through that precious Saviour, by whom all things are ours, both for time and eternity. It is our highest privilege and happiness, that in offering praise we glorify thee. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord; praise is comely for the upright, and in Jesus praise is comely for us; though in ourselves sinful, we are accounted righteous in thy sight through faith in him. All glory be to thee for blessings without end, which daily manifest thy continual goodness to us, and for thy loving-kindness, who orderest all things concerning us.

Help us this day to recollect and meditate upon the truths which we yesterday received. May the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, bring them to our remembrance, that they may abide with us and bring

forth much fruit, and may be the power of God to our salvation.

Give us not only outward privileges, but that inward grace which they were intended to impart. Pour thy Spirit very abundantly upon us and all thy people. We want a broken and a contrite spirit. We want a penitent and believing heart. We want a self-denying, self-sacrificing and loving spirit. O Lord, give us this new heart and this new spirit. Write that new commandment distinctly and manifestly on all of us, the commandment that we love one another as Christ has loved us.

Bless us as a family together. Make us, more and more, blessings and comforts to each other daily and hourly, as we grow in conformity to thy image, and partake more of thy likeness. Whether in the relation of parent or child, master or servant, friend or kindred, may each relation be that fountain of love and refreshment which thou didst design that it should be, so that we may grow up in all things unto Christ our head, and edify each other continually in love. May our household, in all things, be conducted on the rules of the gospel. May we use hospitality without grudging, and delight in being a comfort and blessing to others.

Prepare us for all thy holy will and all thy righteous and gracious dispensations with our country and with the world, with our church and the whole church of Christ. May the great object of our lives

be to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and may we have entire confidence in thy love, to provide for every want. Let us not be troubled about many things, but, remembering that one thing is needful, may we choose that good part which shall not be taken from us.

We ask the same blessings for all our friends and relations, for our neighbours and for our fellow Christians and fellow-creatures through the world. Every where let the gospel be preached, and the way of the Lord be prepared, and a waiting people be called forth, all ready for his coming and meet for his heavenly glory. Hear us, for Jesus Christ's sake, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory now and for ever. Amen.

XXXII.

MONDAY EVENING.

FAITH IN CHRIST SOUGHT.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enable us by thine own Spirit to draw near to thee. May we dread coming unto thee in form only and not in spirit, in carelessness and not in earnestness, in unbelief and not in faith. And O give us to thirst after thy presence and favour and love, even as the hart panteth for the water-brooks.

We thank thee for the many mercies of this day,

all testifying thy care over us, thy love and goodness to us. O how many are now living on our earth who are destitute of the temporal advantages and the spiritual blessings which we enjoy. And who are we, and what are we, that thou shouldest have so favoured vile, ungrateful sinners, rebellious creatures, continually breaking thy laws and offending in thy sight!

O Lord, freely forgive our many offences, more in number than the hairs of our head. May thy goodness melt and subdue our souls, and still continue to do us good, and to bless us, by turning each one from our iniquities.

Give unto us grace to know Jesus Christ and him crucified, and to count all but loss for the excellence of this knowledge. We earnestly implore of thee the gift of precious faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Thou hast told us that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life; thou hast told us that the just live by faith. O grant unto us this living and saving faith. May we simply and wholly trust in Christ, and not in any merits or good deeds or righteousness which we have done, or can do. Grant that the life we now live in the flesh we may live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us; and may his wonderful love ever constrain us not to live to ourselves, but to Him who died for us.

O Lord, may we all believe thy faithful testimony,

that we are saved by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves; but that it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast; and may we have the manifest proof of a living faith, by fulfilling, in thy strength, those good works, unto which we are created in Christ Jesus.

Bless our whole family; those who rule and those that serve; parents, children, and friends and all who are related to any of us; wide is the circle of kindred and friends connected with those now kneeling before thee, but let not one of them be without thy saving grace and thy eternal blessing. May all who are relations to us according to the flesh, become united to us far more nearly still in the faith of Christ and by partaking of thine own Spirit.

Bless our country and all Christendom and the whole world. O may the angel having the everlasting Gospel fulfil completely in our day his mission of mercy to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, and tongue, and people: O that all may see the approaching hour of judgment, and may fear God and give glory to him, and worship him alone. O that all the people of God may come out of Babylon, and cease to partake of her sins, that they receive not of her plagues; and may the salvation of Israel speedily come out of Zion, and the Lord bring back the captivity of his people, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

XXXIII.

TUESDAY MORNING.

HELP IN THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE DAY,—PRAYER
FOR THE PROSPERITY OF THE CHURCH.

Almighty Father, what manner of love is this that we should have the privilege and right, in Jesus Christ, of calling thee our Father. As thy sinful children we come into our Father's presence, through him thy only-begotten Son, who partook of our flesh and blood, and is now our Advocate with Thee. As all our blessings first came from thee, so we praise thee together for their being still continued to us and enjoyed by us. Our health as well as our life is from thee; from thee flow all our comforts, privileges, and blessings, both for body and for soul. But above all we thank thee for that gift, of all gifts the chief, thine only Son to be our Head and Redeemer, our light and life and glory for ever. Together then we praise and bless the Father of all our mercies and the God of all our comforts.

O Lord Jesus, who didst promise thy disciples that thou wouldest not leave them comfortless, but wouldest come unto them, graciously fulfil thy promise to us. Come unto us as our Shepherd, Teacher, Saviour and Ruler. Send unto us the Holy Ghost, the Comforter from the Father, to abide with us now and for ever. May he take of thy holy truths,

and show them to us. May he teach us all things and guide us into all truth.

O Lord, we can never tell what a day may bring forth, or how we may be tried and insnared. Preserve us this day in all dangers, guard us in all assaults of our spiritual foes, assist us to go through all our duties, make us ready to seize all opportunities of doing good; let no temptation of Satan surprise us into sin, but may we take the shield of faith, and so quench all his fiery darts.

Bless, O gracious God, this family, and each member of it, according to their several callings and duties in thy church. May our desire for thy glory grow more simple. May we have more pure and holy affections towards each other, that thus, as a family we may grow up more and more as a holy temple unto the Lord.

Bless our [city and] neighbourhood, our county and our country. Take from us the spirit of judgment, and give us the spirit of love; take from us divisions and strifes, and give us oneness of mind and overflowing kindness to others. Overrule trials and difficulties for the revival and enlargement of thy church. May we be clothed with humility, and in honour prefer one another.

O Lord, enrich, enlarge, and prosper thy church with the manifold gifts and graces of thy Holy Spirit. Do thou bear with the transgressions of thine own people. Let us not have to mourn over the sins of

those bearing the name of Christ, but to rejoice over their daily renewal in his glorious image. May no part of thy word, even that relating to thy future counsels, thy judgments to come on sinners, and thy coming in glory to raise thy saints to reign with thee, fail to afford us, and all who believe in Jesus, practical lessons for daily holiness and devotedness.

Bless thy chosen nation; restore and convert Israel. Give us heavenly wisdom to understand thy purposes with regard to them; and seeing in them the wonders of thy providence, the truth and mercy, the righteousness and love of our God; and beholding thus, as in a mirror, thy glory, may we be changed more and more into thy own likeness by the Spirit of the Lord. Graciously forgive and hear, accept and answer all our prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake.

XXXIV.

TUESDAY EVENING.

GOD'S MERCIES AND OUR SINS,—VARIOUS BLESSINGS
SOUGHT.

O Lord of all power and might, our good and gracious Father, from whom alone comes the spirit of grace and supplication, grant that our prayer unto thee may be spiritual and fervent, may not be a burden to the flesh and a weariness to the spirit, but a real comfort and enjoyment. Help us to pray in the Holy Ghost, to keep ourselves in the love of God,

and to look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

We praise thee from the heart for all the blessings which we have this day been enjoying. Thou gavest us strength for our duties, provision for our wants, preservation from evil. All the streams of goodness that refresh us, continually flow from thee first of all. Thou art the fountain of life, and in thy light we see light: light for our souls, light for this world, and light for the world to come, all in Jesus Christ the true light of life.

Yet, O our God, we are by nature blind and corrupt, and have turned every one to his own way; we are by nature proud and vain, and have departed from thee and turned to lying vanities. We have dishonoured thee by unbelief and hard thoughts, and alienation of mind through the ignorance that is in us. God has been forgotten in our thoughts: and innumerable sins have defiled that body, which ought to have been a pure temple of the Holy Ghost.

We have need then to come again to thee with all earnestness to obtain thy mercy and grace to help us. We apply afresh for the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus on our guilty consciences. O may we win Christ and be found in him. We seek the Lord now. We call upon him now. Fulfil thy promises: be found of us. May we be saved by thee.

O Lord, renew a right spirit within us. Let us not lose our precious opportunity and day of grace.

During this short seed-time may we scatter the precious seed widely, and make our life the seed-plot of a glorious and eternal harvest; not sowing to the flesh but to the Spirit, that we may of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

May we consider our High Priest and Leader, Jesus, who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest we be wearied and faint in our minds. May we also receive from thee the present and large aid of thy Holy Spirit, filling us with love to God and love to man, and enabling us to bring forth abundant fruit that thou our Father mayest be glorified.

Bless us as a people together, and especially that flock of Christ with which we are united. Prosper all our plans for doing good; give us patience and perseverance to go on with them; strength, zeal, and energy to accomplish them; and thine own blessing in them and upon them. Bless all that dwell in our [parish and] neighbourhood; strengthen and multiply the communicants; bless the schools and teachers; regard in mercy the destitute, the sick, and the afflicted; assist the visitors of the poor with thy favour. We thank thee for any tokens of good amongst us. Multiply these continually, and let us rejoice more in thy goodness to all around us.

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us. Restore and save thy people Israel, and thus let thy way be known upon

earth, and thy saving health among all nations, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XXXV.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

THE LOVE OF GOD TO OUR COUNTRY, AND PRAYER
FOR OTHERS.

We thank thee, O merciful **Father**, our King and our God, that we are once more, as a family of thy children, assembled around the throne of thy grace in the name of our Redeemer. We bless thee for the many and great privileges thou hast given to our land. May we be recovered by thy love both from heathenism and from popery, and enjoy the full and clear light of divine truth; exalted above all nations, and made the means of diffusing thy light to distant lands, and to Jews and Gentiles through the earth, and ever feel disposed to render the thanks which are due unto thee for such distinguished blessings! Great also are our daily family blessings in the measure of health and strength which we enjoy, the large share of domestic mercies, the hourly social comforts, and the spiritual advantages which thou hast bestowed. All our blessings come truly from thee, though many of them, from thy purpose of love to endear us to each other, are given by the hands of our fellow-creatures. Thou, thou only, art the true source and original fountain of all.

But we desire in lively faith to look at thy deeper goodness still, not merely in what is at present good and pleasant, but also as really manifested in what is painful. O may we see enlarged love in the chastenings, yea, even in the scourgings of thy hand; knowing that though no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous, yet that afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Help us then to glorify God in trials by patience and meekness, and may we rejoice in the blessed effects of tribulation.

Assist us by thy grace through this day. May we fall into no sin: may we run into no kind of danger: may all our doings be ordered by thy governance, to do always what is righteous in thy sight: may we remember that thou hast appointed to each of us our station and our daily work, and that it is the Lord's work; and may we fulfil it, not negligently but diligently, with a fervent spirit and a joyful and glad heart. Be present with us in all our occupations. In our daily duties may we have fellowship with thee, O Father, and with thy Son, Jesus Christ, and know what it is to walk in thy light and love, O thou God of all wisdom and of all goodness.

Bless thy church in all the earth. O may it be preserved from corruption within, and from enemies without, and continually increase. Speedily consume the man of sin with the spirit of thy mouth. Speedily manifest the brightness of thy coming. We thank

thee for all the efforts now making to scatter the seed of thy word through the world. We bless thee that we live in a day in which we see so many signs of thy coming, kingdom, and glory. Oh may we watch and pray, and be diligent to be found of thee in peace. May our time, and influence, and property, and strength, be willingly and cheerfully given to him who has bought us with his blood.

Bless our magistrates, and all in authority. Preserve and extend order and obedience founded on reverence for thy holy word, among all classes of society. Bless the ministers of Christ, and may they diffuse throughout our country the full spiritual blessings for which the church of God has been established, so that no corner of the land may be destitute of the means of grace, or without a laborious, efficient, and faithful ministry of thy word among all classes and orders of men. Promote piety in our army and navy. May thy Sabbaths and all thine ordinances be honoured and observed by us throughout the land; so that we may, as a nation, be a people fearing God and working righteousness. Grant these blessings, for Christ's sake.

XXXVI.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

OUR CARE CAST ON GOD,—THE COMING OF CHRIST'S
KINGDOM SOUGHT.

O thou who art the God of peace and love, we desire to come out of all the distracting cares and occupations of this sinful world, and to seek thy face in and through Jesus Christ. Incline our hearts by thy Spirit, that we may draw near to thee, and do thou thyself now draw nigh to us and manifest thy presence and blessing.

We would cast all our cares on thee, whatsoever those cares may be, whether bodily or spiritual, personal or domestic, temporal or eternal. We are sure that in every care thou carest for us; nor can a sorrow come to us, but it is known to thee, and in all our afflictions our sympathizing Redeemer is afflicted. Help us then to be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to make our requests known unto thee. O remove from us the load of guilt, through faith in the blood of Jesus. O deliver us from the power of sin, by the mighty and immediate aid of thy Holy Spirit. O deliver us from all worldly anxieties, by assured confidence in thy faithful word.

Thou knowest, O Lord, the peculiar temptation of each of us, and thou knowest our peculiar weakness,

and thou hast ever suited our temptation to our peculiar strength, that we should not be tempted above that we are able to bear, but should in every temptation have a way to escape. O may we have grace then to call upon thee in the season of trial, and by thy strength to be faithful when tried. Continue to guide us with infinite wisdom, mercy, and love. May we ever do thy will, and give up ourselves unto that divine Saviour who for us resisted sin unto blood, when he shed his own blood on the accursed tree for our sins. May we too be faithful even unto death, that we may receive the crown of life.

We cannot count up all thy benefits, so great is the sum of them; benefits to our bodies, benefits to our souls, benefits to our neighbourhood, benefits to our nation, benefits to our church, and to the whole world. We give thee glory for all. How highly hast thou favoured our land, in giving us the light of thy truth and the abundance of thy word, and enabling us to bear that light and communicate of that abundance to others!

O Lord, preserve these blessings to us. Bless those who rule over this country. Save us from wicked and unreasonable men, for all men have not faith. Save us from the deceivableness of unrighteousness in the apostacy; save us from the raging floods of lawlessness and infidelity. Provide the means of grace for every dark place in the land. Multiply churches and teachers in all the destitute parts of the

country. Deliver us from prevailing ignorance and ungodliness, from all Sabbath-breaking, swearing and licentiousness, and may the knowledge, and love, and fear of God prevail and triumph over all darkness and alienation of mind from God, and all wickedness.

O Lord, who hast given us great promises of thy future glory, and who hast taught us to pray "Thy kingdom come," fulfil these promises to us, and in our day, that thy church may with full joy of realized triumph have to cry, The Lord reigneth. O hasten the time when the nations shall beat their swords into plough-shares and their spears into pruning-hooks, and the Prince of Peace shall reign in every land, and there shall be abundance of peace as long as the moon endureth, and the earth shall be full of righteousness, reflecting the holiness of heaven, for thy will shall be done on earth even as it is in heaven.

All this we confidently ask, because Jesus is worthy, and we offer up all our prayers in his name and through his mediation. Amen.

XXXVII.

THURSDAY MORNING.

THE THRONE OF JUDGMENT AND THE THRONE OF
GRACE,—ADOPTION SOUGHT.

O righteous and eternal God, who triest the hearts and the reins, and hast declared that thou wilt bring

every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil; we believe that we also must stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and receive the things done in our bodies, whether good or evil; and we bless thee for thy loving-kindness in now appointing for us and revealing to us a throne of grace, open to all who need that grace. We come to thee, seated now on that throne of grace, and, in this accepted time, we ask that we may all obtain mercy for our many sins, and grace in time of need to overcome every corruption and do that which is good and acceptable before thee.

We bless thee that thou hast revealed to us the righteousness of God, which is by faith of Jesus Christ, unto all and upon all that believe, and that we are justified freely by thy grace through redemption. O give unto us faith in the blood of Jesus, and grace to be fully assured that what thou hast promised, thou art able also to perform. Thus may our faith bring glory to thy great name; fill us with pure and holy love; may it enable us to triumph over the world, the flesh and the devil, and prepare our souls to meet thee in judgment, seeing that whosoever believeth in Jesus, thy only-begotten Son, shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

O heavenly Father, look upon this thy family, for which thy Son Jesus died, and to which thy Spirit is promised, and give unto us more and more of the spirit of adoption, that we may look to thee as our

Father, and cry Abba, Father, and have entire confidence of heart in thee, and fervent glowing love, and unreserved devotedness to thee. Preserve us from all evil. Give unto us all that thou seest good for us. Assist us in every duty. Look in mercy on the peculiar state and circumstances of each of our souls, guarding us from the snares and dangers to which we are exposed, and enabling us to fulfil that special service in thy kingdom, to which thou hast called us. Lord, help us to attend first to near, primary, and immediate duties. Keep us from being careful and troubled about the future. Let us not be anxious about to-morrow; but to-day, while it is called to-day, may we hear thy voice and live. Give us to act in faith, hope and love, ever minding these three things, and remembering that the greatest of these is love, and God himself is love. Make us, then, O make us like thyself, and let us bear thine own image.

Lord, grant to us very largely the supply of the Spirit of Christ. Baptize us, O Jesus, with the Holy Ghost, and by his powerful in-working, may we this day and continually bring forth all the fruits of true righteousness.

Prepare us for the day of Christ. Let us ever take heed to ourselves, and not be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, lest that day come upon us unawares, and as a snare; and seeing that vast multitudes that dwell on the face

of the whole earth shall be thus unprepared, may we not walk in the course of this world. Gracious God, make us watchful and prayerful, that we may be accounted worthy to escape all those things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Spare our country, and give us true repentance, and make us a far larger blessing to all countries. [Bless our rulers, and may they be nursing fathers and nursing mothers to the faithful witnesses of thy truth.] Bless the whole church of Christ. Bless our own immediate neighbourhood, minister, [and parish,] our relatives and friends. Make us truly thine now and evermore, and vessels of thy mercy to others, through Jesus our Redeemer.

XXXVIII.

THURSDAY EVENING.

SIN CONFESSED, FAITH IN CHRIST DESIRED, AND THAT
AFFLICTIONS MAY BE SANCTIFIED.

Thou great and glorious God, who in the heavens can be compared unto the Lord! who is a strong Lord like unto thee, or to thy faithfulness round about thee! thou art to be had in reverence of all them that approach unto thee. We worship thee, in deep abasement of soul, acknowledging our innumerable sins, and coming unto thee through that propitiation for our sins, even Jesus Christ the Lord, which thou thyself hast provided for us.

We have all gone astray like lost sheep; we have grievously offended thee by transgressions of thy law and neglect of thy gospel; our omissions of duty are many; our sins have been wilful and perverse, repeated and accumulated; and even had we done all required of us we should have been but unprofitable servants. Forgive the many sins even of this day, our negligence in the Lord's work, our eagerness in the trifles of time and sense, and our coldness and indifference about thy service, thy glory, thy ways, and the salvation of perishing souls. Pardon us freely, pardon us fully. Pardon us now. May we see and know the abundant redemption there is in Christ, and truly believe that he has put away our sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Strengthen our faith in all that Jesus has done for us. May we know and rejoice in his saving grace, and may it effectually teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. Teach us ever to look for the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour. O may this blessed hope never be dimmed in our minds by the things which are seen and temporal, but may we ever be looking at those things which are not seen, and are eternal.

O Lord, may all our trials, sorrows, and difficulties work for our soul's welfare. May we give glory to thy wisdom and love, thy truth and holiness in them, and be preserved from all hard thoughts of

God, and all murmuring and repining against him. Yes, may we even be joyful in tribulation, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope that maketh not ashamed. God Almighty grant us such grace that this blessed fruit may grow from all our troubles.

Bless all around us, and all for whom we ought to pray. Some are suffering from disease and sickness, and confined in their own chamber; visit them with thy grace and love. Some are in trouble and distress from losses and family afflictions; sanctify all for their good. Some are burdened with sin, lead them to Christ. Some are careless and impenitent, O awaken them to their real danger, and give them true repentance. Some are scoffers; Lord, change and convert them, and bring them to a better mind. Grace and peace be to all thy saints. Add to their number continually, till all thine elect be gathered unto thy fold, and Jesus return in glory.

All praise be unto thee for continued mercies this day. The earth is full of thy goodness, and so is the great and wide sea. We bless thy holy name for all the riches of redeeming love in what is past, and what is present, and what is to come; and let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord, through Jesus Christ, our High Priest and Advocate, our Saviour and our Redeemer. Amen.

XXXIX.

FRIDAY MORNING.

JEHOVAH ADORED, THE AID OF THE SPIRIT AND THE GRACE OF CHRIST SOUGHT, AND CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS DESIRED.

Eternal Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the one living and true God, we bless thee, who hast called us to the knowledge of thyself, and given us the gracious title of sons and daughters in thy family, through faith in Jesus, the only-begotten Son of the Most High God. We now unite together with angels and archangels in praising thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of thy glory.

O Holy Spirit, the intercessor to help our infirmities in prayer, grant us thine aid that we may pray in the Holy Ghost, with all that faith and humility, that contrition and earnestness, and that glowing desire and love, which are the fruit of thy grace. Do thou enable us to offer up the fervent and effectual prayer that availeth much.

And, O Jesus, for ever blessed be thy name for that full propitiation for the sins of the whole world, which thou our High Priest hast made in thy own sacrifice on the cross, and which thou dost now, as our Advocate, plead with the Father for us. We would view thee as the Lamb slain, in the midst of

the throne in heaven, and would join the blessed company there in crying aloud, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

O divine Redeemer, who wast once crucified for us, ever let thy grace be imparted to us and be sufficient for us. May we now follow thee, and crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts, and be by thee crucified to the world and the world to us. O let not our treasure be in this world. Let none of us lay up treasures for ourselves where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. May all of us lay up treasure for ourselves in heaven, that our hearts may be there where our treasure is. We earnestly beseech thee, O Father, draw us to Christ more and more; fill our souls with love to Him in whom thou delightest. Though we have not seen him, yet knowing his grace, may we fervently love him; and believing in him, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, receiving the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls.

Grant to each member of our family first of all thy saving grace. O may the governing principle of our household be to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Deliver us from pride, vanity and high-mindedness. Preserve us from despising others. Make us contrite and humble; make us meek, and patient,

and loving to all men, and especially to those in humbler circumstances. May we know that all we have is thine, and to be strictly accounted for to thee; and may we glory only in the Lord. Make us truly considerate of the wants, and feelings, and necessities of others, and deliver us from a contracted and narrow selfishness, from looking only at our own things and not at the things of others also.

We pray that the light of divine truth and the doctrine of free salvation through Jesus, may shine all over the world, and multitudes every where be enlightened and walk in the light of it. Convert Israel. Make Jerusalem a praise in the earth. Have pity upon our guilty land, and the multitudes amongst us who neglect thy great salvation, and live as without God in the world. Give us not over to wicked men and their evil counsels. But still spare us, and enable thy church joyfully to serve thee in all good works.

We ask every thing in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

XL.

FRIDAY EVENING.

GOD'S MERCIES TO US AND OUR SINS AGAINST HIM—
PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Almighty Father, the God of the spirits of all flesh, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing

wonders; tender in thy compassion, deep in thy love, boundless in thy mercies, we glory in all thine infinite perfections, as displayed to us in the face of Jesus Christ, and exult in the confidence that this God is our God, and shall be our guide even unto death.

O Lord, glory be to thee for all thy gracious providence in all thy dealings. We bless thee that when trials come upon us, we may see in them tokens of thy love, and proofs that we belong to the children of the living God. We bless thee that in the midst of our many wants, we can come to thee, as a Father who knows them before we ask him, and who has all wisdom and love, power and riches, to supply all our need. We do then together, at the close of this day, exalt and magnify thy holy name. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

Divine Spirit, the Comforter, come unto us and abide with us for ever. Give us full confidence in our God. Give us the spirit of adoption, the spirit of grace and of glory. Fill us with ardent, persevering, untiring, intense love, even as the heavenly hosts who love God with a perfect love. May we have sweet assurance that goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life, and that we shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

O merciful God, when we look to thee in Jesus

our Redeemer, we see thee thus great and glorious and full of goodness, even to us, thy sinful creatures. What reason then have we, when looking on ourselves, to loathe and abhor ourselves! Thou seest us rebellious and ungrateful, and alienated from thee. Thou beholdest us weak and wayward, blind and sinful, shaken by temptation, yielding to our enemy and thy enemy, and continually turning from our true interest, and welfare, to some deceitful vanity or wickedness of this evil world. Oh then visit us with thy salvation. Look in mercy upon us, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.

Give us that mercy and help which we so constantly need in all our weakness, sinfulness, and necessities. Pardon the many sins we have each committed in thy sight, whatever it may have been, and restore peace to our burdened and disturbed minds, and quiet our accusing consciences, through the sprinkling afresh upon our souls of the blood of Christ.

May we be enabled, by the eye of faith, to discern and discover thy righteousness and love in every thing, and may we testify thy grace to all around us. Do thou thyself, O God, comfort the mourners, help the poor, rescue the distressed, enlighten the ignorant, and convert the unconverted. Give us ever a heart to care for others, and preserve us from the mockery of a love with dissimulation; that is content with words, and has no corresponding acts of

labour and self-sacrifice. May our love to others be unfeigned and fervent.

Preserve our beloved church in the faithful and full confession of Protestant truth intrusted to us in the blessed Reformation, and enable us to maintain it till the Lord come and receive us unto himself; and may we send this truth far and wide, through every land, to bless all nations.

Hear and answer us, for our Redeemer's sake.

XLI.

SATURDAY MORNING.

STRENGTH TO PERFORM DAILY DUTIES AS TO THE
LORD.

O our God, who art the God of salvation, and the Lord God to whom belong the issues from death, receive us thy sinful children, justly exposed through sin to death and eternal ruin, and save our souls. We bless thee that Jesus our Redeemer, has ascended on high, led captivity captive, and received gifts for men, yea even for the rebellious, that thou the Lord our God mightest dwell amongst us. We now come unto thee bewailing our many rebellions, and imploring thee to bestow those gifts which Jesus has received for us.

The duties of another day are now before us, and we have no strength to fulfil them with a single eye to thy glory and a single heart in thy service.

Assist us by thy mighty grace. Let us not shrink from any duty because it is laborious, painful, or self-denying; we are so weak and perverse, that when we know thy will we are insufficient of ourselves to do it; we are so blind, that often we cannot discern the way in which we should walk. Give us then light to see, inclination to choose, and strength to do thy will in every thing.

Assist each of us according to our peculiar need, whether parents or children, teachers or learners, masters or servants. May each of us discharge our peculiar and direct duties to thee and to each other as shall most promote thy glory and the good of all around us. May those at the head of the family remember that they have a Master in heaven; those who serve remember that they serve the Lord Christ; and the children not merely be subject to an earthly parent, but also be in subjection to the Father of our spirits. O may we obtain fresh life from thee, the life of the soul, the life of faith, hope, and love, the minding of the Spirit, and all that spiritual life which those have who are in subjection to thee, the Father of spirits.

Bless our President, the ministers of state, the houses of Congress, the judges, and all in authority, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Bless the church to which we belong, and all the churches of Christ. Assist thy ministers in their private meditations and in

preparing for their public work, and assist all thy people so to prepare all things beforehand, that the Sabbath may, as much as practicable, be entirely given to its holy and heavenly occupation.

O Lord, thine enemies are full of zeal, and abound in wickedness. O God, arise, and let all thine enemies be scattered; and let those that hate thee flee before thee; but let the righteous be glad, let them rejoice before God, yea let them exceedingly rejoice. Every where may thy people be stirred up by the aboundings of iniquity, the blasphemies of infidelity, and the lawlessness of unruly men; to be watchful and keep their garments unspotted from the world; to be valiant for the truth as it is in Jesus; to be pitiful and compassionate to those in error; and to seek to save men with fear, pulling them out of the fire, and hating even the garment spotted with the flesh.

O God of love and mercy, what thanks we owe to thee for thy mercies to us! Thou, Lord, art plenteous in mercy, and abundant in goodness and truth. Shed abroad more and more thy love in our hearts. Give us a believing and grateful view of all thy past dealings with us, and of all that is now present and around us, and the joyful hope of all the promised good things which are to come. O may we see that in all thy ways thou art wise and holy and good and gracious, and ever joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with thee and the

Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

XLII.

SATURDAY EVENING.

THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST PLEADED, AND SABBATH BLESSINGS SOUGHT.

O thou that inhabitest eternity, with whom one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day, we, whose life is a vapour, who have here no continuing city, do in this our day of grace and salvation, come unto thee for eternal life and blessedness. If we, being evil, know how to give good things to our children, how much more wilt thou, our heavenly Father, altogether good, give unto us good things. Give us then that pre-eminently good gift, thine own Spirit, to be our Teacher and Sanctifier, to create us anew in thine own image, and strengthen us to do all thy will.

Unworthy as we are to approach unto thee, there is one in our nature who is truly worthy, and who is thine elect, in whom thy soul delighteth. He wears our very form, and he is now at thy right hand, on thy throne, making intercession for us. By him then we come near to thee, and now desire the joy of communion with the Father of our spirits.

Our wants are indeed many and great. We want a constant spirit of prayer, a believing heart, a soul

in which love to God and man shall be largely shed abroad from on high. Give us many spiritual blessings on the approaching Sabbath. May it be a day remarkable for the fulness of thy grace. Bless us in all its services. Pour showers of blessing on our dry and weary souls.

Open the mouths of thy ministers to speak thy word; open the hearts of the people to receive it; open their eyes to understand it; and may thy word sown bring forth fruit in them, some thirty, some sixty, some an hundred fold.

O Lord, graciously preserve us and deliver us from mere formality in prayer. Let us not in daily and weekly confession of sin, lose the sense of what it is we confess; but may we feel that it is an evil thing, and very bitter, to sin against the Lord. May we learn to hate sin with real hatred, and not to bear with sin in ourselves or in others.

Bless all the congregations of thy people on the morrow, in all the churches of Christ through the world. Thousands, O Lord, of the sick, would fain attend thy house, and are kept from it. Lord, bless all such with Sabbath grace while unable to come into thy courts. Tens of thousands wilfully absent themselves. Lord, convert them. Lord, teach them to prize what they now despise or disregard. Many are kept away by thy providence; some on the wide ocean, some in foreign lands, some beyond reach of the public means of grace, and some unexpectedly

and unwillingly detained from them. Lord, look on them all in their respective circumstances. God be merciful to his people Israel, and bless them, and lift up the light of his countenance upon them. O may they know the blessing of our Lord's day. God grant that Christ may speedily be the light of the Gentiles. Let all thy people, let all men with one accord unite in saying—'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands, serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with thanksgiving.'

Thanks, eternal thanks be unto thee, O our Father, for thy merciful kindness is great towards us, and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. The Lord is our strength and our salvation, and he shall be our song for ever.

O Lord, hear the prayers which we, a feeble company of thy sinful children, at the close of another week and the approach of another Sabbath, have now made. We acknowledge our utter helplessness before thee, and that in vain will the prayers of our church be offered, in vain will thy ministers preach, in vain will the song of praise ascend, if thou pour not out of thy Spirit, if thou do not kindle the sacred fire of prayer and praise and love; if thou give not the seeing eye, the hearing ear, the understanding and believing heart. Grant to us and to all thy worshippers through the earth, these inestimable blessings, that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Fourth Week.

XLIII.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

FOR A BLESSING ON THE CHURCH IN EVERY LAND
AND ON OUR OWN EFFORTS TO DO GOOD.

O Lord, our only refuge and strength, whose eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show thyself strong in behalf of those whose heart is perfect towards thee, give us a heart truly sound, and right, and perfect in thy worship and service. O enable us to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, as made of thee unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, and by his blood may we now have access with boldness unto thee, through one Spirit.

This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. Be thou our joy. Be thou our delight. Pour a full blessing upon us; may all the ordinances of thine appointment be enriched with thy grace, and presence, and blessing; so that we may have an unction from the Holy One, and know all things profitable for us to know, and attain thy holy mind and will, and delight in thy ways.

Assist all thy ministers. Open their mouths

every where, boldly and fully to declare the gospel of the grace of God. O that the name of Jesus may be as ointment poured forth, in the midst of thousands and tens of thousands of congregations of thy people in Europe and Asia, in Africa and America, in the isles of the sea, and in vessels traversing the wide ocean, and through the whole world on this thy holy day. Restore Jerusalem speedily. May thy righteousness and loving-kindness be proclaimed to Jew and to Gentile, and in every assembly of thy people clothe the word of salvation with divine power and energy; that it may penetrate, awaken, convert, build up, comfort, and sanctify innumerable precious souls, and every where make ready a people, all prepared for thy coming and thy glory.

Assist us in all our efforts to do good this day to the bodies or souls of those needing our help. Prosper our efforts for the instruction of our more ignorant fellow-creatures, whether old or young. May all our thoughts, our words and works be full of truth and love, and all such as shall glorify thee and benefit man; and may none of our plans to do good fall to the ground and be lost, but all be patiently carried forward by thy grace, and have a blessing from on high. May we see the fruit of our labours, and know of a truth that our God is with us.

Hear us for the only sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

XLIV.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

ADORATION—CONFESSION—PRAYER TO BE PRE-
SERVED FROM A HARDENED HEART.

O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, who dwellest in the highest heavens, on a throne of glory, encompassed with seraphim and all the glorified hosts of heaven, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth, thou hast made heaven and earth: we worship thee. Thou wast also in Christ reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing their trespasses unto them: we bless thy holy name, who redeemest our life from destruction, and crownest us with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

O Lord, receive the prayers and praises of thy whole church through the world, this day presented unto thee. May they ascend up unto thee through the mediation and intercession of our great highpriest, who takes the golden censer, and with much incense offers the prayers of all thy saints before thy throne. Thus may there come down from above, that divine grace and power by which sin shall be vanquished, the world overcome, Satan subdued, and all the fruits of righteousness be largely yielded up by us and all thy people to thy glory.

O Lord, forgive all the sins of our services this

day. How many are our Sabbath sins! In past days how many broken Sabbaths, unimproved opportunities, and lost privileges, and alas how we still fall short in every thing of thy glory. How often has the Sabbath been to us rather a weariness than a delight, a formal service, and not a spiritual enjoyment; a burden, and not a privilege! How often have vain imaginations, wanderings of heart, and distractions of mind, mingled with and polluted all its holy duties even to this very day! Blot out all our sins for thy name's sake. And give us a believing, penitent heart, that receiving thy word in faith and meekness, we may be not only hearers but doers of it also. Make our hearts truly to receive and gladly to obey. O preserve us from a hardened heart. Keep us from tempting and provoking God. Keep us from erring in our hearts, and from ignorance of thy ways, and enable us so to believe, that we may finally enter that rest which remains for the people of God.

Bless thy faithful ministers in their own souls, and in their families; make them burning and shining lights to thy church. Make thy people watchful and prayerful. May we remember all the solemn admonitions to be ready for the Lord's coming, and keep us from the temptation of thinking thee slack concerning thy promise. May our loins ever be girded about, and our lights burning, and we ourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, that

when he cometh we may open to him immediately.
O Jesus, hear us for thy own name's sake. Amen.

XLV.

MONDAY MORNING.

PRAISE—CONFESSION—A BLESSING SOUGHT ON THE
WORD PREACHED.

Almighty Lord, whose eyes are in every place, beholding the evil and the good, who art the God of our family, into whose name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we have all been baptized, and to whom we desire ever to live, we praise thee, we exalt thee, we give thee glory, as the only living and true God, God over all things in heaven and in earth, now and for ever.

We praise thee for all the mercies of another morning, for thy protection through the night, for the measure of health and strength which we enjoy daily, for our family comforts and family love, for our religious privileges and the many means of grace. O Lord, what thanks shall we render for thy holy word; for the gift of thy only begotten Son himself, for the indwelling of thine own Spirit, and for the blessed hope of living with our Saviour in those glorious mansions which he is now preparing for us. O give us grace to take the cup of salvation. O give us grace to believe all thy love, to rejoice in it, and to love him who has so first loved us.

Unworthy, utterly unworthy, are we of these thy mercies. We have walked each one in his own way. We have all departed from our first and best, and most tender Father and friend. By unbelief, by alienation of heart, by self-will, and pride, and selfishness, and impenitence, we have all offended thee. Oh may thy Spirit so bring home to our hearts thy love and our ingratitude and perverseness, as to remove that in us which is hard and stony, and make us humble and contrite in thy sight. Like Job, may we each see our own sinfulness, and with broken hearts and self-aborrence exclaim, Behold, I am vile, I abhor myself, I repent in dust and ashes.

And while our mouths are thus stopped, and we each acknowledge that we are guilty before thee, reveal to us the full preciousness of Christ; the length and breadth, the depth and height of his love which passes knowledge. May thine own Spirit continually take of the things of Christ, and show them to us. May he show us things to come, may he glorify Christ more and more to us, and in us, and by us.

O Lord, sanctify us by the truths which we yesterday heard; make us thereby free from sin and at liberty to serve thee; give unto us that best and only true liberty. May we manifest the truth in a holy and devoted life, ever looking to Jesus and seeking to tread in his steps.

Bless all who with us heard the word of salvation, both in our own church and in all other churches through the world. May the joyful sound gladden every land. Restore Israel, bring in the fulness of the Gentiles, hasten the Redeemer's return and the restitution of all things. Bless our magistrates, and make them ministers of good to thy church and this nation, and direct all concerning us as shall be most for thy glory in the good of all mankind, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XLVI.

MONDAY EVENING.

FOR FAITH IN CHRIST'S LOVE AND HATRED OF SIN.

Heavenly King, the Lord of all, whom it is our privilege to know as our Father, and by faith to discern as now in the midst of us—we bless thee that while thy glory is revealed to adoring cherubim and seraphim, angels and archangels, in the highest heaven, we too may come very near to thee by Jesus Christ, through one Spirit, and partake of thy manifested presence and favour.

Grant unto us, now approaching to thee, rest and refreshment of spirit, inward strength and divine comfort, through the pardon of all our sins, and the gracious gift of thine own Holy Spirit. We acknowledge together that we have all this day again sinned against thee. We have not, as we should

have done, denied our own will, our own pleasure, our own interest, and our own honour, and preferred thine in every thing. We have not lived through the day as in thy presence. We have not, with a single heart and with our whole soul and strength, loved thee. We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. Our minds have been forgetful of our God; we have walked by sight rather than by faith; and our souls have cleaved to things below, instead of soaring up to thee and dwelling in high and heavenly places.

Look upon us in our sinfulness and misery with thy pity and mercy. We believe in thy love to us sinners, who didst not spare thine own Son, but hast delivered him up for us all. Lord, help our unbelief. O give us grace to believe all thy promises of grace to sinners, in Christ Jesus. Help us really to trust in him with our whole hearts; to venture wholly and unreservedly our eternal interests on his merit alone; to know that he is the Saviour, and *our* Saviour from all our sins.

And O may we also learn at the foot of his cross, and while looking at our dying Redeemer, to hate sin with real and entire detestation, and to feel that it is a bitter and an awful thing to sin against a God of holy love, who is just and faithful to forgive all sin, at such a cost as the death of his own Son. Supply through Jesus, we entreat thee, every spiritual need of our souls. Make us daily to put off the old man

and to put on the new, and to be renewed in the spirit of our minds.

Bless each relative of our families, bringing them into a full participation of the grace of Christ. Bless all our neighbours and our friends, [our parish] and our country. Guard us from all evil. Give peace to Jerusalem. Let thy gospel fly through the earth on its glorious message of love, and speedily be preached to every creature, and may multitudes every where believe and be baptized and saved, and hasten the accomplishment of all thy purposes of love in the universal kingdom of Christ, for his name's sake.

XLVII.

TUESDAY MORNING.

JOY IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE—CONFORMITY TO HIS
IMAGE DESIRED.

We give thanks unto thee, O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father through him for all the mercies of thy great salvation, and for the hope which is laid up for us in heaven, whereof thou hast told us in the word of the truth of the gospel. Redeemed by the blood of Jesus, we join all that call upon his name in saying, Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power be unto the Lord our God for evermore.

It is our joy to come before thee, knowing that thou hast done and will do all things well for us.

We joy, O our God, to think that we are wholly in thy hands, the God of all wisdom and all power, the God of all truth, holiness and loving-kindness; and that in and through our Lord Jesus Christ, God is our God, pardoning our sins, justifying our souls, adopting us into his family, and sanctifying us by his Spirit, and he will be our guide unto death and our exceeding great reward for ever.

Mercifully assist us to show forth the virtues of our God. May we partake of his beauty and perfections, and daily manifest his image and likeness in righteousness and true holiness. Help us in each duty to thee and to man, this day, that all may be fulfilled to thy glory, and to the good of all around us.

May all our studies and all the knowledge gained in them, and all our plans and undertakings be sanctified and consecrated to thee, and be hereafter turned to the practical good of others. May all our labours be undertaken for thee, and with a constant regard to thy will and approval. Give us in every thing we do to think less of ourselves and more of thee and thine. Give us largeness of heart, not to look on our own things merely, but to rejoice to look on things of others also.

O that we may become like our great Master and Saviour in every thing, and have the very spirit of our good and gracious Redeemer. Make us more like him in holiness and purity; more like him in meekness and gentleness; more like him in tenderness and compassion; more like him in self-sacri-

ficing love and goodness; till at length we come to see him as He is, and know as we are known.

May we have full assurance that all thy chastenings come from thy love; and may they yield in us the peaceable fruits of righteousness; wean us from earth; and work out for us, while looking to things unseen and above, a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

We pray for ourselves, and for all who believe in the Lord Jesus, and love thy saints; that we may be filled with the knowledge of thy will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that we may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing; being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; and that we may be strengthened with all might, according to thy glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness.

Thanks be unto thee for thy mercies to our country, and the rulers whom thou hast set over us. Pardon our many national sins; continue to bless us; make us a people fearing thee and working righteousness. Unite as one all thy faithful followers, and fill the whole earth with thy glory, through Jesus our Redeemer.

XLVIII.

TUESDAY EVENING.

FOR REPENTANCE AND FREE JUSTIFICATION.

O God of love and peace be with us; be merciful to us and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon

us, while we now, as one family, together approach unto thee in the name of Jesus Christ. Thou art the eternal Jehovah, the most holy Lord of all, the immortal, invisible, and only wise God, and we are sinful and have done much evil in thy sight. We confess before thee that in the day that is now past, we have added many sins to our former sins; and that if thou wert extreme to mark what we have done amiss, we could not at all abide it.

O Lord, give us grace not only to confess our iniquities, but to mourn and grieve for them, as destructive to our souls, dishonourable to thy name, and committed against light and knowledge and thy revealed love, and our many and deep obligations and solemn vows. We have no excuse in ourselves. We condemn ourselves. Our mouths are justly stopped and we own our guilt in thy sight.

And therefore we are shut up to the faith which thou hast revealed, and fly for refuge to lay hold on the hope set before us in thy gospel. We plead before thee thy precious promise that to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. O may it now be given unto us to believe in the name of Christ. Give unto us, we beseech thee, repentance unto life. Give unto us to live continually by faith in Jesus. May we daily repent of sin, and daily trust in thee, and more and more, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be dead unto sin and alive unto God.

O grant us grace continually to behold that Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world, and to be ever looking to him who bore our sins in his own body on the tree, and on whom thou hast made the iniquities of us all to meet, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

O Lord Jesus, dwell in our hearts by faith, and by thine own Spirit fill our souls with love to thyself who hast so loved us, that we may hereafter live to him who died for us. Quicken us to walk in thy ways. Revive thy work mightily in us. Subdue our sins and sanctify us wholly; making us like thyself, and delivering each from our peculiar dangers and temptations, and enabling each to adorn thy doctrine in all things, and occupy all the talents given to us, to the glory of Thee the giver.

We thank thee from the heart for all thy mercies; for any preservation from evil, any help in duty, and any services rendered to others, all glory be to thee. All is of thee. O receive our day's labour as a willing service rendered unto thee our Heavenly Master.

Take us and ours into thy care this night. Guard us and all we love, and all for whom we ought to pray, from every evil. Relieve the distressed, succour the tempted. Execute judgment for the oppressed. Give food for the hungry. Beautify the meek with salvation, and may they speedily inherit the earth. Hear us, O our God, for Jesus sake.

XLIX.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

FOR SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD, AND GRACE TO
BE GIVEN TO EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

O Lord, our rock and our fortress, our deliverer and our strength, in thee will we trust and thee will we love, for the light of the knowledge of thy glory has shined in our hearts in the face of Jesus Christ; we have been baptized in his name, and we entreat thee to baptize us with his Spirit now and evermore.

We desire as a family to come out and be separate from a world lying in wickedness, and not to touch the unclean thing. May we never be unequally yoked with unbelievers. May we have no fellowship with unrighteousness, no part with infidels, no concord with Belial, but may we all have fellowship with righteousness, have communion with light, have concord with Christ, have part with believers, have agreement with the Temple of God. May we be truly the temple of the living God, and do thou dwell in us and walk in us, be our God and make us thy people. O Father, receive us into thy family, and be a Father unto us, and may we be the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty.

Give us grace to be followers and imitators of God, as dear children. Strengthen each for the

duty of that station in which thou hast appointed that each should do thy will and glorify thy name, whether it be ruling or serving, teaching or learning, directing or labouring; whatever be our respective work and occupation, may we do it heartily and joyfully as unto the Lord, and not unto men. Preserve each of us from our besetting sin. Whether it be love of the world, in its riches, pleasures, or honours; or self-wisdom and self-will; or pride, vanity, indolence, or selfishness; self-righteousness, or vain glory, or any other filthiness of the flesh or of the spirit; may we loathe and abhor all sin, especially in ourselves, and be cleansed from it by the blood of Jesus and the power of his Spirit.

Nor fail to give us, we entreat thee, the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. He is appointed by thee not only as our Saviour, but as our example. Thou wouldest have us to attain his likeness. O give unto us then his devotedness, his earnest, patient, and diligent zeal, his spirit of prayer, the depth of his humility, the tenderness of his compassion, the strength of his confidence, and the ardour of his love. We open our mouth wide according to thy command, that thou mayest fill it according to thy exhaustless fulness of grace.

Bless our rulers, and all our national councils. Direct all public measures for the good of this great nation and of the whole earth, in that remarkable day in which we live. May all the power, riches,

commerce, and influence which thou hast given us be used for thy glory. Fulfil thy promises to Israel, and through them to all nations, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

L.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

FOR FAITH IN PROMISES TO PRAYER, AND FOR
QUICKENING GRACE.

Glory be to thee, O God, most high and most holy, most just and merciful, for all that thou art in thyself, and for all thy dealings with us thy sinful creatures. Thou hast told us that herein is love, not that we loved thee, but that thou hast loved us, and sent thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins. We believe this thy love. Help our unbelief, while through that propitiation we again approach unto thee, pleading the promise that what two of us shall agree as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of thee our Father, which art in heaven.

O give us to believe what thou hast said, with full and growing confidence, and to know that the feeble prayers which we are now offering are really heard by thee, and are powerful to obtain for us the help which we need, because we have a High Priest ever living to make intercession for us.

Enable us with the heart to believe unto righteousness, and with the mouth to make confession

unto salvation. May we never be ashamed of Christ and his gospel, but fully testify of him in the face of the world now, that he may confess us before thee at the last day.

Quicken us, O Lord, for we sadly experience the deadening effects of intercourse with the world. Preserve us unspotted from it, and may we possess that pure and undefiled religion which visits the destitute and the helpless in their affliction.

Thou knowest that we are sore let and hindered in running the way of thy commandments, by much occupation and many cares; by vain thoughts; by levity, pride and unbelief. O awaken our souls from all carelessness and indifference, from all drowsiness and dulness in the things of God. Work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure, and may we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Thou seest our ignorance, teach us good knowledge; thou seest our deadness, revive the life and power of godliness in our hearts; thou seest our worldliness, O may we by the cross of Christ at length be crucified unto the world and the world to us; thou seest our many entanglements in the bustle, and company, and pursuits of this life; give us grace to break through all our snares. Let not the good seed of the word be choked in our hearts, but give to it full increase, that it may bring forth much fruit.

Look upon all connected with us, as fellow-members of one church; may they be truly thine, grow in grace, glorify thy name, and be a blessing to others. Look in mercy upon those who have hitherto neglected thy great salvation; who, year after year, with continually increasing guilt refuse thy grace; and now at length convert them, before the day of salvation be past, and their hearts become wholly hardened in sin. Save our country from foes within or without. Guide our rulers. Bless our spiritual pastors. Bless all the ministers and missionaries of Christ in every land, and may all nations whom thou hast made come and worship before thee and glorify thy name, for Jesus' sake.

LI.

THURSDAY MORNING.

FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT.

O thou, who art a just God, and a Saviour, and there is none besides thee, forming the light and creating darkness, making peace and creating evil, doing all things; we worship together and adore thee. Thou art most holy and most true; yet merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; through one Lord Jesus Christ, and by one Spirit, with bended knees, and a confiding, grateful, and glad heart, we come before thee. Put thy fear into our hearts, that we may never depart from thee.

Thanks be unto thee, thou Giver of all good, for the most precious gift of thy love, Jesus Christ. How could we, sinful as we are, come near unto thee without him! How could we see and know thee but by seeing Jesus! How could we have any communion with thee but by his grace! In thy light alone can we see light, and behold as in a glass thy glory, and be changed into the same image. Thanksgiving, praise, and glory be to God for his unspeakable gift.

And seeing, O our most merciful Father, that thou hast given thy Son, withhold not also thine own Spirit. Give us, O Father, freely, that great gift which we now most of all want for our souls' renewal and prosperity. Thy Son, the faithful witness, has declared, that if we, being evil, know how to give good gifts to our children, much more shall our heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him. We know, O our God, that they are true words: he who is the truth has said them. We cast ourselves on thy faithfulness. We believe thy promise, and in the name of Jesus we now ask, that we may now receive thy blessed Spirit. O Holy Ghost, teach us. O Holy Ghost, guide us unto all truth, sanctify us by the truth, uphold us to the end, comfort us in sorrow, give us joy in the Lord, and prepare us for His kingdom and glory.

Holy Father, give not the Holy Ghost to us thy waiting children in small measure, but largely pour

upon us showers of thy grace. Baptize us with the Spirit, fill our souls with his grace and unction, so that we may abound in joy, and peace, and hope and holy love, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

We entreat thee farther for an enlarging, growing, and deepening knowledge of thy truth. Grant us grace ever to search the Scriptures diligently, prayerfully, practically, and with patient meditation and perseverance. Give us more light and understanding in thy word, and may this light cheer, and warm, and bless not only our own souls, but all around us.

Grant us also fervent, glowing, supreme, and intense love to thee, and zeal to do good to all men, and especially to the household of faith. May we look diligently lest we fail of the grace of God, and may we follow peace and holiness day by day. Let the hope of seeing thee, the great and glorious God, animate us to strive more and more after holiness, coming unto Jesus to purify us unto himself among his peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Bless all for whom we ought to pray; and make us considerate, not only of those in our immediate circle, but of the wants of all with whom we have any thing to do. Bless our kindred, our neighbours, our friends, our church, the whole church of Christ, our rulers, our country, and Jews and Gentiles through the earth. Pour out of thy Spirit on all, and now and ever take us under thy care and providence, through Jesus Christ.

LII.

THURSDAY EVENING.

FOR FORGIVENESS AND THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION,—
INTERCESSION.

O Lord, the great and mighty God, glorious in holiness, a consuming fire and a jealous God, ever to be had in reverence, and a merciful God waiting to be gracious, and ever to be trusted; we would come into thy presence with filial fear and child-like confidence, by Jesus Christ, thine own appointed way for our return unto thee. Do thou thyself draw us that we may come unto thee. By him, as the door of the sheep, may we, the sheep of thy fold, enter in and be saved, and go in and out and find pasture.

O Lord, we thank thee for all the truths of thy holy word. May we diligently search into them and receive them with faith, meekness, and gladness of heart. May thy word be to us a full warrant for all it testifies, and thine own means of communicating to us continually increasing faith. May it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our paths, by taking heed to which we may cleanse our way through a world full of pollution and sin.

Forgive, O Lord, forgive all our sins. We were born in sin, we are transgressors from the womb, and from our youth up we have continually trespassed in thy sight; doing what we ought not, and leaving

undone what thou hast commanded us to do. In this very day we have been backward in self-denial, and in taking up our cross; we have been slow to speak and act for thee; thy presence has been disregarded, and thy glory not sought; thy law has been disobeyed, thy gospel neglected, and duties and privileges have been lost sight of. Thus we have been cold in thy service, and worldly, and selfish, and vain, and unbelieving. Our secret faults are many, and we have wearied thy patience with our iniquities.

We can indeed plead nothing in ourselves; but hast thou not testified, "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions [for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins?" We cast these our guilty souls on thy faithful promises. Our only refuge is the Lord Jesus Christ, and thy sure promise of forgiveness of sins in his name, and of justification to all who believe in him. Give unto each of us grace to believe thy promises, and to cleanse ourselves thereby from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit. We now commit ourselves and all we are and have, in dependence on thy grace in him, unto thee, our God and our salvation, for time and for eternity.

And now, Lord, send thy Spirit into our hearts, to bear witness with us that we are thy children; and may we hereafter walk in the liberty of the gospel, and have full confidence in thy fatherly love to-

ward us; and rejoice in thee, and enable us also henceforth with divine strength and gladness to run in the way of thy commandments.

Bless our whole family, the heads, the children, the inmates, the servants. 'May the changing circumstances of thy providence all work for our good.

Bless our respective families, relatives, and friends. Provide for the poor. Heal the sick. Remember strangers and foreigners. Think of all that travel by sea or land. Succour the tempted. Bring to an end the Mystery of Iniquity, the lawlessness of self-will, and the scoffs of infidelity, and may Jesus speedily return in his glory, and reign over his own inheritance for ever.

LIII.

FRIDAY MORNING.

FOR PERSEVERANCE AND SAVING GRACE,—

INTERCESSION.

We thank thee, O heavenly Father, for that full display of thy glory given in answer to the prayer of thy servant Moses on Mount Sinai, by which we know thee as the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation. We bless thee for the bright

shining of this thy glory in all its harmony, and the manifestation of thy righteousness, and grace in our redemption, by our Lord Jesus, that thou mightest be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. O let us give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever.

In this confidence we come again before thee, pleading thine own promise that they shall wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. O give us renewed strength, may we rise as on eagles' wings to thee our God; may we run with patience, may we walk with steadfast perseverance in thy ways. Lord, we continually, when engaged in thy service, feel the temptation to weariness and faintness. Bring thy promises home to our hearts, that we may be preserved from being weary in well-doing, knowing that we shall reap in due season if we faint not. Give us each to look diligently that not one of us fail of thy grace, that no root of bitterness spring up to trouble us and defile many.

We beseech thee to strengthen us with the inward might which the Holy Ghost imparts, that we may crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Assist us in all our thoughts, words, and works; in our going out and coming in this day, that all being under thy direction and governance,

the whole day may be spent in thy faith, fear, and love.

O Lord, thou knowest the exact state of each of our souls. Suffer not any of us to be deceived by sin and Satan; may not one of us be in a carnal unconverted state in thy sight. If any now kneeling with us know thee not, reveal thyself to them, so that without one exception, we may all have that eternal life, the happy portion of those who know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

We pray for all the churches of Christ through the world; especially for suffering and afflicted churches in the midst of Papal, Mahommedan, or Pagan darkness. May they glorify God in the fires, and may they shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life.

We pray for our own land, so blessed, so exalted to heaven, so sinful, and so ungrateful for all the national mercies received, especially through the glorious Reformation. O may we be watchful and strengthen the things that remain and are ready to die, and remember how we have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent, and be prepared as a nation for that day of the Lord which comes as a thief.

Bless our family. Look upon the sick and the afflicted around us, and ever give us sympathy in the sorrows of others. Order all things for the best

good of ourselves, and all we would remember in our prayers, through Jesus our Redeemer.

LIV.

FRIDAY EVENING.

PRAISE—CONFESSION OF SIN IN HOLY THINGS—
PRAYER FOR UNCONVERTED.

O Lord, we will praise thee: though thou wast angry with us, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest us. Behold, God is our salvation, we will trust and not be afraid. O Lord, what a sure foundation hast thou laid in Zion,—Jesus Christ, the rock of ages, the chief corner-stone, elect and precious, and he that believeth on him shall never be confounded. Lord, increase our faith, and enable us with our whole heart to confide in thee.

We would rejoice in all thy tender love towards us, and that we who were once afar off are brought nigh to Thee by the blood of Jesus. In thee we would delight to feel that we live and move and have our being. From thee alone come all our family blessings, our religious privileges, our comforts in this life, and our hope of good things to come. We have been brought safely to the close of another day, encompassed with thy goodness on every side, and we offer unto thee glad tribute of family praise and thanksgiving.

Forgive, O our God, all that thy holy eye has

seen amiss in our thoughts, words, and works this day. We never attain that perfection to which thou callest us. Our prayers want praying over again; our repentance needs to be repented of; our obedience is full of disobedience; our charity needs itself to be covered by the eye of love; all, all is short of that commandment which is exceeding broad: all, all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. We would count all our own goodness as dross, and follow only after thy righteousness, that we may win Christ, and be found in him.

O our God, we freely confess, that however pure our conduct may have been in the sight of man, however free from blame before our fellow-men, in thy sight all we do is vile and polluted; we can place no confidence in the flesh. In thee, thee only is our hope and our glory.

We would then now wash our robes, and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. By that blood cleanse us afresh from all sin, quicken us afresh to all love and glad service and grateful obedience. Give us such a believing reception of the Lord Jesus, as our present, only and complete Saviour, as shall lead us to put far away all sin with loathing and abhorrence, and to love thee the Lord our God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength.

We now commit ourselves to thy protection during the dark and helpless hours of night. Thou art

our Keeper and Protector by night and by day. Darkness and light to thee are both alike. Give us quiet and refreshing rest to fit us for the duties of another day. Bless each of us in our more private devotions, and may we never neglect to pray in secret to our Father, which seeth in secret.

Again we ask thee to bless all around us, and all with whom we daily meet and are occupied. Sanctify all our intercourse with them. Let us never be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, nor keep our light under a bushel, but confess Christ openly before men. Convert our unconverted relatives, neighbours and friends. Give us, as a nation, grace to honour God. Roll away and scatter the dark clouds of ignorance and sin, and let the Sun of Righteousness speedily arise on all that fear thy name with healing in his wings. We ask all for Jesus' sake.

LV.

SATURDAY MORNING.

FOR DIVINE COMPASSION AND ASSISTANCE IN
DUTY.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts, who dwellest on high in the light which no man can approach unto, who hast made the world and all things therein by Jesus Christ, and in thine infinite condescension humblest thyself to behold things in the heaven and in the earth, and to raise up the poor out of the dust;

behold us with thy favour, and visit us with thy salvation, and satisfy us with thy early mercy.

We unite together as one family to praise thee for the mercies of another morning. We laid us down and slept, and have awaked with renewed strength and health and restored blessings all around us, for thou, Lord, hast sustained us. Salvation belongeth unto thee, O Lord, and thy blessing is upon thy people, and we beseech thee to give unto us renewed spiritual life here, and the resurrection of the saints in the world to come. Innumerable have been thy past mercies, innumerable are thy present benefits! O Lord, still continue for ever to do us good, and to bless us.

May thy love be largely shed abroad in every heart by thine own Spirit, that we may be constrained by this love to yield ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto thee. O preserve us from walking in the course of this world, and enable us to withstand its temptations, and to be more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Look in pity upon our many sins, weaknesses and infirmities. May we fully believe and prove the power of thy word, that as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. O pity our deadness and dulness in thy service; pity our backwardness and aversion to divine and heavenly things; pity all our weakness and helplessness; pity our blindness and ignorance, and all our guiltiness

and corruption; and heal, O heal all our spiritual diseases. Our souls wait for the Lord, he is our help and our shield. May we all find that in Jesus, the mighty One, there is help even for the sinful. O blessed Jesus our Lord, without thee we can do nothing, but by thy strength we can do all things. May we labour then in thy name, striving according to thy working in us to do all the will of God.

Enable us all to be thoughtful of to-morrow's Sabbath, and to set all in order for its quiet and devout observance. Assist thou thy ministers, and give them light, grace, and love for their high and holy office. Send them help from thy sanctuary.

Prosper us in all our daily employments. Give that measure of success in our undertakings and occupations which thou seest to be for our good. Let us not shrink from toil and labour in the duties of our station, nor faint under them, but may we go through our appointed work with steady perseverance, and believing cheerfulness. Grant that all the trials and deliverances, all the sorrows and joys, all the afflictions and comforts of thy people every where, may, by thy mighty grace, prepare us all to be vessels meet for thy heavenly kingdom. O enlarge and multiply, both from Jew and Gentile in every land, that glorious company who shall through eternity admire the riches of redeeming love. Hear us for Jesus' sake.

LVI.

SATURDAY EVENING.

PREPAREDNESS FOR CHRIST'S COMING—HELP IN
SABBATH DUTIES.

Hitherto, O Lord, thou hast helped us, and we love thee because thou hast heard our voice and supplication. Because thou hast inclined thine ear unto us, therefore will we call upon thee as long as we live. Give us then grace to pray in the Holy Ghost, and by his inspiration may our prayers be fervent and effectual.

At the close of the labours of another week, and on the eve of thy holy Sabbath, we come to thee for pardon. Thou hast mercifully opened a fountain for sin and uncleanness, and we are sinful and unclean, and come to be washed and sanctified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Look, O Lord, upon the special state of each one here before thee. Thou knowest the talent given to each to occupy, and the temptation under which each one is bowed down to the dust. O strengthen and support each under temptation, and enable each to glorify thee, preparing each for the peculiar place which thou hast appointed them in thy kingdom below, and thy kingdom yet to come.

We entreat thee ever to give us a spirit waiting for our Lord's coming. O may our loins be girt

about and our lights burning, and we be like unto men that wait for their Lord. May all the remarkable signs of the times in which we live not pass unregarded by us. May we be wise to discern them. May our eyes turn to the hills whence cometh our help, and may our gazing sight be so fixed on the return of our Lord, that we may purify ourselves even as he is pure, and be prepared to see the King in his beauty.

We unite in earnest prayer for a blessing on each part, and duty, and ordinance of thy holy day. We unfeignedly acknowledge before thee our conviction of our entire insufficiency in ourselves to offer unto thee any acceptable service. In vain will our lips be joined in prayer, if thou give not the spirit of grace and supplication; in vain will the song of praise ascend with the voice, if thou open not our lips to show forth thy praise; in vain will thy ministers preach, if thou give not the seeing eye, the hearing ear and the understanding and believing heart. O Lord, supply all our need, then, out of thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Pour thy Spirit upon us. Kindle in our hearts the sacred flame of holy desire and ardent love. Give us all grace to call the Sabbath a delight, holy unto the Lord, and honourable, and preserve us all from defiling it by seeking our own pleasure, speaking our own words, or walking in our own ways.

Anoint thy ministers afresh with heavenly unc-

tion. Make them bold in our God, to testify fully and freely the gospel of thy grace, and every where let thine own Spirit give power to thy word for the calling in of thine elect and the building up of thy saints, through Jesus our Redeemer.

Fifth Week.

LVII.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

**FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND FOR A BLESSING ON
CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who on this first day of the week didst rise again from the dead for our justification; we bless thee that, filled with love to thee, thy church has now sanctified this as the Lord's day and the Christian Sabbath. Enable us, setting apart all worldly and vain thoughts, to rise to all its holy privileges and occupations.

Thou didst rise to bestow upon us all heavenly gifts, and especially the Holy Spirit, whose fruit is love, and joy, and peace. We beseech thee, send down on our waiting souls thy blessed Spirit. O may we find the blessed effect of his indwelling, by his changing the whole inner man from being earthly,

sensual, and devilish, and transforming us into temples of the Holy Ghost, the vessels of mercy, and may we be shining lights to glorify God and benefit our fellow-men.

O Lord, what we most of all need on this thy day, is that thou shouldest give to us thine own Spirit, to make intercession in us and for us. We implore this gift from thee. Without thy Spirit our prayers will be cold, formal, full of vanities, distractions, and hypocrisies—a deception before man and a mockery before God. But only give us thy Spirit, and we shall rise beyond the incumbrance of the flesh and the weakness of the spiritual man, and as on eagles' wings mount up to thee, thirsting after thee, and delighting in thee, and worshipping thee in spirit and in truth. Thus, O our God, this day fill our souls with light and love, with strength and gladness.

Bless thy ministers in preaching thy word. Open their minds and hearts to the truths and glories of the good tidings of great joy, and give them, out of the fulness of their own deep feeling and experience of thy truth, to testify it to those who hear them. O open doors of utterance to them to speak boldly the mystery of Christ, that they may make it manifest.

O God of peace and love and all grace, bless the congregations of thy people through the world. We joy to think that the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ has so gone forth, conquering and to conquer, that

myriads of churches in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, and in countless isles of the ocean, of diversified languages, manners and customs, but knowing one Father, believing in one Saviour, under the teaching of one Spirit, enlightened by one light of divine truth, unite in adoring and magnifying thee and singing thy praise. O Lord, be in the midst of them; may all that know the joyful sound rejoice and be glad in thy salvation. In every assembly may Christ be exalted, sinners be drawn to him and truly converted, thy people strengthened, and thy kingdom be enlarged and glorified.

And may our own beloved country be more and more honoured of God in making Christ known to Jews and to Gentiles. We bless thee that thou hast put it into the hearts of any to show favour to Zion. May we prosper more and more by loving Zion. Prepare us and thy whole church for the often foretold last tribulation, and out of it bring the full glories of the return of our Lord and the complete triumph of his kingdom. Hear, graciously answer, and bless us abundantly, through Jesus Christ.

LVIII.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

PRAYER TO BE HEARD, AND WANTS SUPPLIED,
THROUGH CHRIST.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come, who livest for ever and ever,

and who art now seated on a throne in the highest heavens, surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of holy angels, and all the redeemed host above, who ever sing praises unto thee and ever magnify thy great name; listen also, we beseech thee, according to thine infinite greatness and goodness, to the feeble prayer of us, thy sinful children here below.

Though we are so weak and sinful, the only Son of God took upon him our nature, and was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Though we are so unworthy to approach thee, One in our nature is at the right hand of thy throne, who ever liveth to make *intercession* for us. Through him alone we dare come before thee, and through him we may have access, with full confidence of heart unto thee.

Supply all our wants out of thine abundance of grace and mercy in Christ Jesus. We are blind as to all that is before us and as to that which most concerns us—open the eyes of our understanding, that we may discern them. We are dark as to the beauty, reality and glory of spiritual and heavenly things—give us light. We are weak to do what we know to be right—give us strength. We are sinful and prone to evil—give us inward holiness. We are ever ready to think highly of ourselves—O may we know our own corruption and depravity, and count all things but loss for the excel-

lency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus; that we may win Christ and be found in him. We are wavering and unstable, and soon led away, by the error of the wicked—do thou fix our affections on thyself and unite our hearts to fear thy name.

We praise thee for the sabbath mercies we have this day enjoyed; we thank thee that though it be six thousand years since the sabbath was first appointed, the blessed ordinance still continues; that we form part of the vineyard over which thou dost watch, that the privileges of thy house are open unto us. Give us to see that boundless love which from eternity has been planning mercies for us, and is now accomplishing them.

Grant thy blessing, we beseech thee, upon the truths which we have been hearing this day. May the light thy word gives us concerning thyself, and our duties, and our privileges, and relating to things to come, guide and cheer all our paths. O may we more and more prize each part of divine truth, and know that none is without its spiritual use for our souls' profit.

Bless this place and neighbourhood, the congregation, the schools, the parents, the children, the rich, the poor, the young, the old, the sick, and the healthy, giving to each seasonable and needful grace; especially grant to the dying, true faith and repentance unto life, and holy preparation for thy presence. Show us all how much more there is in Jesus than

we have ever yet known or enjoyed, and enable us to comprehend with all saints the riches of his love. May we have grace ever to sympathize with the case of others and feel their sufferings as our own. May brotherly love continue. May [our parish and] our country be governed by thy fear, and be a happy and united [parish and] country. When we look upon the sin and misery of the world, on the millions of Pagans or Mahommedans and apostate Christians, [and know from thy word that the conversion of thy people Israel is thy appointed means for giving light to them that sit in darkness, and shall be as life from the dead to the world,] O Lord, we take up our Saviour's command, pray for Zion, and would give thee no rest till thou make Jerusalem a praise in the earth. O Jesus, it is thy command, and let us never set up our wisdom against thine, but may our whole mind and will be moulded and conformed to thine. May we all follow thee here, and finally reign with thee for ever.

LIX.

MONDAY MORNING.

TO SPEND THE WEEK UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF
SABBATH SERVICES, AND TO BE USEFUL.

We believe, O our gracious God, the faithfulness of thy word, and we are sure that thou, the God of Israel and the God of the whole earth, the same Lord over all, art rich unto all that call upon thee. In

this confidence we now unite ourselves to the blessed company who in every place call upon thy name; assured that what we ask, according to thy will, in the name of Jesus Christ, we shall obtain, and shall certainly find what we thus seek. Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief.

At the commencement of the week's labours, we pray that we may live in the spirit of those services of thy house in which we were yesterday engaged; in the spirit of repentance and faith, hope and love, humility and obedience, prayer and thanksgiving. May holiness to the Lord be inscribed on our commonest service. May every day be as a Sabbath ordinance. May we set our hearts, with all fixedness and zeal, to run with patience our Christian race. May we earnestly seek first thy kingdom and thy righteousness. O help us to take fast hold of thy covenant, to put away every sin with abhorrence, to choose always those things which please thee, and to keep judgment and do justice. May we never slight or neglect thy truth, but treasure it up in our hearts. O give us true and saving faith, and suffer us not by unbelief to lose the great and glorious privileges of thy eternal kingdom. Prepare us by thy grace to be meet partakers of them, and hasten the coming of that kingdom more and more.

Fountain of light and life, grace and love, we bless and praise thee, for thou art good and gracious; thy mercy is great above the heavens, and thy truth

reacheth unto the clouds. Be thou exalted above the heavens, and thy glory above all the earth. Abundantly have we been blessed by thee in body and in soul, in merciful provision for all our wants, for time and for eternity. Above all, we thank thee for that mystery of godliness, Jesus our Saviour, God over all, and yet manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto us Gentiles, believed on in the world, and received up into glory.

Still bless us, O Lord, and do us good. Thy blessing alone maketh rich without sorrow. Thy blessing turns us from all our iniquities. Let the thoughts of our hearts, and the words of our lips, and the actions of our life, be under thy governance, guided by thy word, and quickened by thy Spirit; so shall they be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

From our own blessed experience of thy light and truth, may we and thy whole church and people every where communicate light and truth to all around us. Preserve us from selfishness and despising others, and from disregarding their necessities. Keep us from the spirit of Nabal, thinking that all in our possession is our own, and refusing to aid others, and may we remember in how few days he was removed from all which he had thought he possessed, and sought thus to preserve. O may we occupy every talent; as we have opportunity doing good to all men, and using all our strength, and in-

fluence, and abilities for thee, till thou return and we give account with joy in thy presence. Command deliverances for Jacob, and let all the ends of the earth see thy salvation. Hear us, O our Redeemer, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all glory now and evermore.

LX.

MONDAY EVENING.

FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

O thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, and who art the Most High over all the earth, we adore thee, Almighty Father, eternal Word, Holy Spirit, three persons in one God; we confess thee to be our God, and give ourselves unto thee to be a holy people unto the Lord.

But, O blessed Jesus, be thou our helper and Mediator, for we can come only in thy name. Look upon us, thy unworthy disciples, who are continually grieving thy Spirit, dishonouring thy name, and breaking thy laws. We, like Esau, are too prone for our one morsel of meat to sell our heavenly birth-right. But, blessed be thy name, there is yet space for our repentance. O give us grace to repent. Show us how unsatisfying and how perishing all the delights of this world are, and how satisfying and abiding are thy favour and loving-kindness, obedience to thee and the partaking of the joy of thy heavenly kingdom.

Holy Ghost, the Comforter, descend upon us and teach us. O Holy Spirit, lead us and guide us, sanctify and uphold us even unto the end. Show us things to come, and be in us a fountain of life and purity, joy and peace and love, now and evermore; may we be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things in Christ Jesus.

We pray, O our God, that every one of us may know the blessedness of those whose transgression is forgiven, and whose sin is covered, to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. Give us this true blessedness of sinful creatures like us, and let us not be content with a name to live among men, or a form of religion, without the real life and power and blessedness of thy salvation.

Preserve us from all hard thoughts of others, and all feelings of bitterness, envy, malice, and hatred towards others. Whenever our inward corruption thus manifests itself, subdue our sins by the power of thine own Spirit, and give us charity and pity, kindness, and tenderness, and love, even to our enemies: so may we do good to them that hate us, and overcome evil with good.

Give us all grace to press into the kingdom of heaven, to remember that it suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. By the holy violence of mortified lusts, self-sacrifice, withstanding evil, renouncing our own righteousness, resisting the Devil,

clinging to our Saviour, and persevering prayer, may we successfully fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life.

Bless our family, and all our family plans. May they all be such as becomes a Christian household. May the friends of the Lord Jesus be our friends. May we use hospitality without grudging, and especially towards thy children, rejoicing to show love to all those who love thee.

Pardon the many sins of our country. Deliver us from popery, lawlessness, and infidelity. Continue to us [our Christian constitution, and] the religious privileges which we have so long enjoyed. Remember thy mercy and truth toward the house of Israel, and let all the ends of the earth see and rejoice in thy salvation, for our Redeemer's sake.

LXI.

TUESDAY MORNING.

FOR HEAVENLY-MINDEDNESS, STRENGTH, AND GRACE
FOR RELATIVE DUTIES.

O everlasting Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of earth, the Lord God Omnipotent, who reignest over all, a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, and of great kindness, we a company of thy sinful creatures, gathered together in the name of Jesus Christ, worship thee and kneel before thee our Maker; for thou art our God, and we are the people of thy pasture.

Great has been thy goodness to us in calling us to the knowledge of thyself, baptizing us in thy name, and quickening us when dead in sins. O raise us up together with all thy faithful saints, and make us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. May we discern the excellence of the heavenly treasure. May we choose it as our portion. May our hearts be there where Christ our Lord is. May our whole polity and converse be there: looking for that Saviour who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to his own mighty work. May we honour all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, and honour our rulers. Preserve us from the unbelief of the world. Let thy word be ever to us a sufficient warrant for our hopes. Let us never take the opinions of men only as our standard, but rest upon the word of him who cannot lie, who will not mock, and who loves us with a true and constant love.

But, O gracious God, how weak is our faith, how dull is our hope, how cold is our love, how languid our zeal. Truly thou mightest justly cast us far off and leave us to our own devices; but, O forsake us not, though our sins are multiplied and our strength faileth. Perfect that which concerns us, for thy mercy endureth for ever, forsake not the work of thine own hands. Revive thy work in our souls, lead us into all truth, and make thy truth sanctifying to us; and knowing its preciousness ourselves may we delight to impart it to others.

Preserve us, Lord, from wresting thy holy word to purposes of pride and self-righteousness, or from turning the grace of our God into licentiousness; but may we tremble at thy word, and receive it with holy awe.

O grant that we may never forget that we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. May it be our great and chief concern now so to act as to be accepted of him in that day. Knowing this, may we now believe with the heart unto righteousness; may we now with the mouth make confession unto salvation, and may our love abound more and more, in knowledge and in all judgment. O may we dwell in love, and so dwell in thee our God. Do thou thyself dwell in us, that thus love may with us be made perfect, and that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as thou art, so are we in this world.

• Give the younger grace to submit to the elder, and the elder to be examples to all. May all of us be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility. By the power of thine own Spirit, may we fulfil all relative duties with constant, persevering, and conscientious diligence, whether as parents or children, masters or servants, teachers or learners, friends or dependents, over others or subject to them, rich or poor, young or old. O may the doctrine of God our Saviour be adorned by a consistent, steady, daily, and self-denying fulfilment of our duties to each

other, ever willing to give up **our** own inclination, will, and pleasure, for the good of others. Let us be lovers of hospitality and of all good men; never living to ourselves, but rejoicing to be both a help and a comfort to all around us.

So inspire thy church with holy love, so order thy providence, so pour out thy Holy Spirit, that the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ may win its mighty way and fill the earth with the knowledge of thy glory. Have mercy on Jacob, and yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land, and make Jerusalem the joy of the whole earth, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham after the flesh, and the Son of the Most High God. Amen.

LXII.

TUESDAY EVENING.

FOR A CONTRITE SPIRIT, AND THE FULNESS OF
CHRIST'S SALVATION.

O Lord, grant that none of us may glory in any wisdom, might, or riches of this world; but may we glory rather in this, that we understand and know thee as the ever-living Jehovah, who exercisest loving-kindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth, and delightest in them. May we acquaint ourselves more and more with thee, and be at peace; and especially, by the knowledge of Christ our Saviour, may we rise to the daily, heart-felt, growing, and delightful knowledge of thee our Father.

Now pour into each heart the spirit of grace and supplication, that feeling our absolute need of thy mercy and thirsting after thy loving-kindness, we may, with longing desires for thy presence and blessing, now wait upon thee. We have all alike, in many things displeased our God by coming short of his glory. All our services of God are full of defects. All our lives are defiled with sins. However before man we may be blameless and harmless, free from the condemnation of human laws and human judgment, before our God we can only plead sin and guilt. We are not only unprofitable servants, but we have been evil and perverse servants, dishonouring thy name by pride and vanity, by selfishness and worldliness, by levity and indolence, by unbelief and presumption. O give us to see more the real extent of our own exceeding sinfulness, that we may be truly humble and contrite before thee, and never be puffed up with the vain conceit of any good thing in us, but always lie low before thee, and loathe and abhor ourselves.

Enable us also, by the teaching of the same Holy Spirit, more to know the grace of Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour; to realize more of his unsearchable riches, his inexhaustible fulness, his suitableness and all-sufficiency; so that we may every one of us see that all that believe are complete in him, and that he is the end of the law for righteousness to our souls, and made of God unto us all that we need for present peace, and holiness, and everlasting blessedness.

Give us the increase of faith in him, the hope of his glory, and the love which he manifested. O may thine own strength enable us to overcome sin and to do thy will; to put off anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of our mouth, lying, and all the deeds of the old man; and to put on the new man, where Christ is all and in all.

We thank thee, O Lord, for the many mercies of this day. May we see thy love in every thing, and then in every thing give thanks, knowing that this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us. May we know that if we sow in tears we shall reap in joy; and may all our enjoyments be heightened by seeing the hand of love bestowing them. O Lord, how good thou art in all thy ways to us, punishing us infinitely less than we deserve, and blessing us so graciously, notwithstanding all our provocations. What a Saviour is our Saviour! What a teacher and comforter is thy blessed Spirit! What a promise the promise of eternal life! And all this for sinners, even for us in Jesus Christ.

O let the happy tidings of this grace and love pervade the habitable globe. Let the Jews, let the Gentiles throughout the earth know the joyful sound. Break in pieces the usurped empire of Satan, and let the captives rejoice in their great Deliverer, Jesus Christ. Hear us for His name's sake,

LXIII.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PRAISE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS, EVEN AFFLICTIONS.

Almighty and everlasting God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who art light and love, blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. Thou, even thou alone, art Lord; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are therein, the seas and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all, and the hosts of heaven worship thee. We also, a feeble company of thy sinful creatures redeemed out of a sinful world, join the glorious company of those who, without ceasing, praise thee. Every day will we bless thee and praise thy name for ever and ever.

Surely none on the face of the earth have greater reason to acknowledge the long-suffering and forbearance, the righteousness and goodness of our God than we have. Living in this highly-favoured Protestant country, with the pure light of reformation truth, preserved to our day in our beloved church, with the holy scriptures in rich abundance, the preached gospel and the abounding means of grace, what thanks we owe thee for all religious and spiritual privileges and blessings! What thanks shall

we render also for innumerable temporal blessings, in daily provision for our wants, health and comforts, in protection from evil, and all the enjoyments and endearments of the family and social circle. And yet farther,—and enable us by faith to discern fully thy love in them,—we would bless thee for our afflictions and sorrows, our losses and disappointments, for sickness and for suffering. We feel that with unmingled ease and worldly prosperity, if thou hadst not been so wise, so firm, so good, so faithful as to chasten us even as thine own children, we might have been lost for ever. But we bless thee that thou hast given us the tokens of chastening love, that we are sons of God. O give us ever believingly, to feel that whom the Lord loves he chastens, and that the end which he designs is our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness, and that thus he would make us vessels prepared and meet for his heavenly kingdom. Magnified and exalted then be our God, just and true, good and right, merciful and gracious are all his ways.

O Lord, grant now yet farther grace unto us. Let our lives correspond to the greatness of thy mercies; let humble love, and grateful praise, and entire devotedness fill our whole souls and our whole lives. Wherever we are, wherever we go, let the mercies of God give us a quickening mighty impulse, that we may present our bodies a living sacrifice unto thee.

May we all of us seek first thy kingdom and thy righteousness. In order to this, may we be diligent to obtain and improve time for retirement, for the study of thy word and for secret prayer, and may we neglect no means of grace which thy providence affords us.

Bless every member of our family, and make us growing blessings to each other, to our relatives and friends, to our neighbourhood, to thy church, to our country; yea, to Jew and Gentile through the world. May we remember that the time is short, and therefore, with all fervour and holy simplicity, endeavour in that short time to bring many souls unto thee. O Jesus, hasten thy coming, and prepare thy church for thine appearing, and take thine own kingdom and reign for evermore. Amen and Amen.

LXIV.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

AGAINST MERE FORMALITY, AND FOR FAMILY
HOLINESS.

Lord, teach us to pray; by thine own Holy Spirit help our infirmities and quicken us to call upon thy name. We confess our great want of reverence and earnestness, our mere formality and great unbelief. Remove all the hinderances to spiritual worship, and give us true and fervent prayer.

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have

much to bring before thee, mercies without number to be thankful for, many sins to confess and bewail, many wants to be supplied, dear friends to be blessed, enemies to be delivered from, and all our duties to thee, to each other, and to ourselves to be fulfilled. We spread all before thee. It is thine ordinance that we should pour out our hearts unto thee, who knowest our frame and art ever ready to help all that come unto thee by Jesus Christ.

Glory be to thee, O God, for all thy unceasing goodness to us, and especially for all spiritual blessings in heavenly things in Christ Jesus. Thou hast set before us, in thy holy word, the blessed hope that we are come in spirit already to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God and the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven; and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling. O help us to walk worthy of this high calling. May we have our conversation in heaven and not on earth. May our hearts be set on things above, and may the forms of godliness lead us, by thy accompanying grace, to the power of godliness.

Preserve us from being carried about with the winds of false doctrine, and enable us to abide in Christ, that we may bear much fruit. Speaking the

truth in love, may we grow up into Jesus in all things.

God Almighty preserve us from a dead, lifeless profession of sacred things; trusting to outward correctness of doctrine, form, or discipline, while the heart is unconverted, self-righteous, and far from real union with Christ. Preserve us from leaning on the traditions of men, and departing from simple reliance on thine own word. Preserve us from mingling any thing with the simplicity of our dependence for salvation on the Lord Jesus. May thy word be our light and lamp, our stay and confidence; may we lean only on thee, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Bless us as a family. May we all belong to the household of faith. O may we more and more resemble the perfect family of Christ above, in union and love, and mutual help, and holy joy. Bless those ruling the family in their responsible office, bless the servants of the family; may they feel that they are the Lord's freemen and serving Christ, while faithfully serving their earthly master. Bless the children, and all who dwell in our house, with all temporal and spiritual blessings. We commend all around us, friends and relations and neighbours and connexions unto thee. Preserve Israel; bring in the Gentiles. Look upon the afflicted. May those who have been humbled by sickness gain the precious graces of humility and confidence in thee.

May those who have been tried by weakness of faith gain spiritual strength, and may those exercised by sorrows and losses be thereby weaned from the vanities of earth and enriched with heavenly blessings. Preserve peace on earth, and hasten the reign of the Prince of Peace over the whole world, for His name's sake.

LXV.

THURSDAY MORNING.

FOR FAITH IN THE WORD, REGARD TO THE SOUL,
AND GRIEF FOR SIN IN OTHERS.

O Lord our God, full of compassion and gracious, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and truth, we will sing of thy mercies for ever, and make known thy faithfulness to all generations. What cause we have to do so when we look at that better covenant confirmed of God in Christ, well-ordered in all things and sure, which is all our salvation and all our desire! Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, we pray that our faith and hope may ever be in thee; and that our souls may be purified through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren; loving them with a pure heart fervently.

Thanks be unto Thee for thy blessed word. May we never read and never hear it in vain, or to our future condemnation. May we derive from each

portion the instruction, warning, and comfort, which it is designed, in thy grace and love, to communicate to our souls. May thy word never be to us a mere visionary thing; may we see all its truth and reality, and may it be the firm anchor of all our souls' hopes; assured that not one thing can fail of all that the Lord hath spoken.

O Lord, whatever we do, wherever we go, with whatever company we mingle, may our chief concern be to please thee; may we attend to that which thou regardest as the one thing needful for us. Whatever is neglected, O let not thy will, thy glory, and the welfare of our never-dying souls be neglected. O may we walk with our God all the day, having constant fellowship with the Father of our spirits.

Holy Ghost, the Comforter, whom we have so often grieved; Holy Ghost the Sanctifier, whose temple we are, and which temple we have so much defiled by evil thoughts and words and works; Holy Ghost the Teacher, whom we have provoked and resisted; not in our own name, but in the name of Jesus, we entreat thee, O Spirit of the living God, come and teach us, come and sanctify us, come and fill us with joy. O never leave us, but abide with us for ever, till thou make us like our Saviour in all meekness and gentleness, purity and devotion, humility and love; and so we become meet for the inheritance of the saints in light.

And, O Lord, give us a real sympathy for the situation of our fellow-creatures. When we witness abominations, may we sigh over them and testify against them. When men keep not thy law, may tears run down our eyes. May we never rejoice in iniquity, trifle with sin, or make a mock at it, but may we ever rejoice in the truth. Bless our magistrates; every branch of our government, and all those who are placed in authority. Give them not only earthly wisdom to guide in earthly matters, but also heavenly wisdom. O may they govern our nation not according to the maxims of this world, but according to the glorious light of thy word, according to the plain and clear commands of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, behold thy people Israel, cast out, trodden under foot, far from their promised land, insulted and oppressed among the heathen, and remember thy covenant of old, and speedily build up Jerusalem. Spare this most sinful world, full of pride and vain-glory, hard speeches against thee, murmuring and complaining and walking after their own lusts, let thy long-suffering be the salvation of a countless number, and let thine elect speedily be gathered at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and reign with him in his eternal kingdom. To whom with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Spirit, be all honour and praise for evermore.

LXVI.

THURSDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION OF SINS; AND PRAYER FOR FAITH, HOPE,
AND LOVE.

O Lord, thou art our Shepherd, therefore we shall not want. It is thine own gracious declaration, They that seek thee shall want no manner of good thing: the eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou satisfiest the desire of every living creature. Receive us, O our God, in the name of the one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, and for his sake supply all our need out of thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We come as a family before thee, confessing our sinfulness in thy sight. However free from human blame and condemnation our conduct may have been, we dare not attempt to justify ourselves in thy sight. Thou knowest the heart and all its abominations. Thou knowest the secret springs of what may appear fair to man. Before our own conscience, and in thy sight, we are verily guilty, and justly exposed to the righteous condemnation of thy perfect law. God ought to have been in all our thoughts, but he has been greatly forgotten by us. His presence ought to have been fulness of joy. But like Jonah we have sought to flee from that presence, and to fill our souls with worldly vanities that cannot profit,

We have not recollected thine ever-gracious eye watching over us, and thy universal presence, in which we live, move, and have our being, ever surrounding us. We have disregarded thy favour and thy glory, and sought honour that comes of man.

O Lord, give us a realizing and truly humbling view of our own sinfulness; bestow upon us that godly sorrow which worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of. Enable us to see the impossibility of standing before thee in any righteousness of our own, and reveal distinctly to us that in the Lord only we have righteousness and strength. We implore of thee the gifts of a loving, purifying, working, conquering faith, and of a hope that maketh not ashamed, full of immortality; a helmet of salvation, and an anchor within the veil; and yet farther we earnestly pray that we may know the more excellent way of charity, and receive each a larger and fuller endowment of that inestimably precious grace of love, which is the very bond of perfectness.

We entreat that we may be decided and fixed in thy ways. O keep us from that false shame which is so injurious to thee, to ourselves, and to others. May God be our glory and our joy. May we ever speak good of his name, and may we never be ashamed to confess our Saviour and his gospel and his people in this sinful and evil world.

Bless all our family plans and arrangements. May they all be ordered as becomes a Christian house-

hold, and let the kingdom of Christ be first in all our thoughts. O Jesus, thou must increase; fulfil thine own glorious office, and thine own gracious purposes, as the light of the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel. Accomplish speedily thine own promises of love and goodness to our world, and may all know thee, from the least to the greatest.

LXVII.

FRIDAY MORNING.

CONFESSION OF SIN, AND PRAYER FOR PARDON.

O Lord God Almighty, and all-sufficient, whose hand is not shortened that it cannot save, whose ear is not heavy that it cannot hear, with whom is all-sufficient grace; we mourn those iniquities which have separated between us and our God, and those sins which have hid thy face from us so that thou wilt not hear. Look then upon the face of thine anointed one, the Lord Jesus, and through the rent veil of his flesh, enable us to behold thee near and reconciled to us, and to have access with confidence to the holiest of all by the blood of Jesus. Give to us the spirit of prayer.

Having this access unto thee, we would now no longer keep silence, but freely and without reserve acknowledge all our sinfulness. We were born in sin, and that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and

in us, that is, in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing. We have lived to ourselves and sought our own things, and have not risen to our high calling to do good and to be a blessing. Other lords besides thee have had dominion over us, even the world, the flesh, and the Devil; and we have all in innumerable instances offended against that law which is holy, spiritual, and good. And even after we have known thy love in Christ Jesus to our souls, with aggravated guilt we have not done the good we would, and we have done the evil which we would not. Our faith has been feeble, our hope dull, and our love cold.

O Lord, let thy Spirit so convince us of sin, and especially of the sin of not believing in Jesus, that we may not merely discern that we are sinful, and acknowledge our sins together unto thee; but that we may with the heart feel the burden, the baseness, the vileness, the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and so from the depth of a contrite spirit confess our transgressions unto the Lord, and obtain now the free, full, and complete forgiveness of all our sins according to the riches of thy grace in Christ Jesus. Enable us by thine own Spirit to believe that through Jesus there is forgiveness of sins; enable us to rest upon His atonement, and may we find His death powerful to mortify sin and to quicken us to all grateful, holy, and devoted service unto thee.

We praise thee, we bless thee, that thou hast pro-

vided such a full propitiation for our sins; that thou hast established for us the new covenant, containing all promises and graces suited to the sinfulness and wants of our perishing souls, and for our eternal welfare. O may we embrace these privileges most gratefully, receive them with gladness of heart, improve them diligently, and walk worthy of our high calling.

Assist us, by thy Spirit, in all that lies before us this day; on our daily work, on our intercourse with others, on all that we undertake and design, may there be stamped holiness to the Lord. May thy blessing so prosper all our thoughts and words, all our determinations and works, that all may promote thy glory. We are unable to do any thing of ourselves, but thou hast all strength for us, and art ready to give to us when we ask, let us not then by our own fault lose that strength, which thou art so ready to give. Strengthen us with thy might, by thy Spirit, in the inner man this day, and enable us in this strength to resist temptation and fulfil all thy holy will.

Bless every member of our family. May the law of Christ, the law of love, be the law of our house. Bless our [parish and] neighbourhood. Give seasonable and suitable grace to the sick and the dying, the young, the careless and the wicked, and especial grace to thine own children. Bless our President and all in authority over us. Build up Zion, and send thy

light and truth to every land, through Jesus our Redeemer.

LXVIII.

FRIDAY EVENING.

FOR ASSURED FAITH IN CHRIST, AND THE REVEALING
OF HIS GLORY.

O Lord, the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth, without whom not a sparrow can fall to the ground, and by whom the very hairs of our head are numbered, we worship together at thy footstool. Thou knowest all things that we have need of before we ask, and yet thou invitest us to make our requests known unto thee, in every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, and so to be free from all care and full of peace: receive these our prayers through Jesus Christ.

Our faith is weak, our affections are grovelling and selfish, our souls cleave to the dust. Often we are ready to doubt if it be possible we can belong to thy people, or be numbered with thy chosen. When in the world we testify not as we should against it that its deeds are evil; we are too often conformed to this world, rather than transformed by the renewing of our mind. O Lord, make thy work in us clear and manifest to our own souls, by thine abounding grace teaching us to do righteousness and not commit sin. Look thou upon us as thou usest to do

unto those that love thy name, and give us constantly the gracious unction of thine own Holy Spirit.

And, O merciful Father, enable us by faith to apprehend Christ, of whom we are apprehended. May we distinctly discern and truly believe that thou hast laid on him the iniquity of us all; that he was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace was upon him. May we build on Christ Jesus alone, that only foundation of all our hopes, and may it be our stay and comfort against all the terrors of the law, and the accusations of Satan, and the charges of conscience in life and in death. O may we, now kneeling in thy presence, at the present time and in the day of judgment, be numbered with those to whom there is no condemnation, who are in Christ Jesus, and who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.

O Lord, make us watchful against our many snares and temptations, and may we ever take heed lest we fall. May we be encouraged by thy assurance that no temptation shall come upon us but such as is common to man, and that thy faithfulness is engaged that we shall not be tempted above what we are able to bear, but that thou wilt make a way for us to escape.

O Lord, may we delight in that which pleases thee; teach us to do thy will, not only in patiently submitting to all thy afflictive dealings with us, but

also in actively fulfilling all the duties to which thou hast called us. Thy Spirit is good; lead us into the land of uprightness, and grant us to glow with ardent and supreme love to thee and unfeigned love to all men.

When shall it be that the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together! Wonderful, in our day, is thy work in bringing nations nearer to each other, and multiplying facilities and rapidity of intercourse. O Lord, may every discovery in arts and science and means of communication facilitate the progress of the gospel and prepare the way of the Lord. Graft in again thy people Israel, and by them fill the whole face of the world with fruit, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

LXIX.

SATURDAY MORNING.

PREPARATION FOR THE SABBATH—INTERCESSION FOR THE CHURCH.

Brought by thy goodness, O our God, to the last day of another week, we worship together at thy mercy-seat in the name of that blessed Lord, thy own Son, who has loved us and given himself for us. Thou art the same unchangeable and eternal Being, from everlasting to everlasting, God over all, supreme and for ever blessed.

We thank thee for all thy innumerable mercies to

us, thy unprofitable and sinful creatures. We bless thee that thou hast refreshed and strengthened us with both inward and outward blessings. We thank thee that we were born in this peculiarly favoured land, that thy house is freely and publicly opened here to us and to all, and that thy holy word is so largely circulated and so fully set before us. O let not all these privileges be in vain; let us not slight nor despise our own mercies, but may they be effectual means of grace, so that we may truly profit by them.

Bless us and all who shall worship with us on thy holy day, in the prospect of another Sabbath, and in preparation for it. May every thing this day be ordered by us so that there may be an entire consecration of the Sabbath, uninterruptedly, to thy service. May we gain deeper views of thy holiness and of our high privilege as washed in the blood of Jesus and made kings and priests unto thee. May we know more of that love of our Saviour, which passes knowledge. May we be assured that we are received into that blessed body which is the company of all true believers, and may we be enabled to look with full assurance of hope to that heavenly glory which is preparing for us.

O Lord, graciously assist, teach, and strengthen thy ministers, and give them heavenly unction that they may preach the word, be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-

suffering and doctrine, making full proof of their ministry. Bless each ordinance of thy house to our own salvation, the spiritual good of others, and the honour and glory of thy name.

Bless thy whole church, scattered over the world. Bless the various pastors of thy church, and all appointed to minister unto thy people. O Lord, look in great love on Protestant churches in foreign lands, and grant that whatever is defective in us or in them may be remedied by thy grace. Pour thy Spirit on all that preach thy gospel through the world; whether among Jews or Greeks, barbarians, Scythians, bond or free, in Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and the islands scattered through the wide ocean—be with them, stand by them, and strengthen them. May their labours have an abundant increase, and thousands and tens of thousands bless thee for ever for their labours.

O Lord, send forth more labourers into thy harvest. Look in pity upon the multitudes now wandering as sheep without a Shepherd, and thrust forth faithful men who shall follow Christ in seeking and saving that which is lost. Pour thy abundant blessing on those preparing for the ministry, and may multitudes go forth as from the schools of the prophets, to gather in thine elect from every land, through Jesus Christ the chief Shepherd and true Bishop of our souls. Amen.

LXX.

SATURDAY EVENING.

FOR REST IN CHRIST, AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS ON
THE SABBATH.

O thou who hast said, Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest, who never hast cast out any that came unto thee; and who art the same yesterday, to-day and for ever, wearied with care and toil, temptation and conflict, and burdened with many sins—we come unto thee for rest. Pardon us, save us, bless us, give to each thy peace and rest, and make us blessings to our fellow-creatures.

Lord, we believe that thou, according to thy promise, art in the midst of us and hearest us, and wilt graciously answer our prayers. Lord, increase our faith. Give us a deep sense of our own necessities, and of thine abundant fulness. Give us to feel our own frail and dying condition, and that we must soon appear before the judgment-seat of Christ, and that all believing in him shall share his heavenly kingdom. We have grievously fallen from our high standing as the sons of God, and are unworthy of the least of thy mercies, much more of the precious gift of eternal life. O Lord, strengthen our faith. Give us lively faith in all thy promises. May we live in the light of things future and eternal. May

we know that there is a world of spirits around us, a Saviour ever near to us, and thy Spirit ever ready to assist us.

To help us to this heavenly life on earth, bless all the ordinances of thy house to us on the morrow. O that it might please thee to distinguish to-morrow's Sabbath with special grace. May it be, more than it has ever heretofore been, a holy and heavenly day, full of unction from the holy One, full of grace. May we know, by happy experience, thy grace and presence in thy house of prayer. May our eyes be opened to see the wonders of thy law; may our hearts be raised to things above.

Bless thy ministers abundantly. Enable them to give to each a portion in due season. May their words sink into the hearts of all who hear them, and be found to praise, and honour, and glory at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant that all who with us hear thy saving word on the morrow may hereafter meet again in thy heavenly courts above, where we shall see thee as thou art, know as we are known, and with one voice unceasingly praise thee.

Bless all thy people throughout the world; some in the lonely wilderness, far from all the ordinary means of grace; some in the isles of the ocean; some in the various kingdoms that profess thy truth, and others amidst heathen and Mahommedan nations: myriads of congregations in every clime and of various

tongues, yet all uniting in worshipping thee and in seeking to keep holy thy Sabbath.

Restore Zion and build up her walls, for thy servants take pleasure in her stones. May thy glory thus be manifested to the whole world, and the depth of the riches of thy wisdom and knowledge be universally displayed. Accomplish thus all thy glorious promises, and let thy church have full reason to say, Not one good thing hath failed of all that the Lord hath spoken.

O Lord, while we pray for others, bless also our own souls. Quicken us by thy Spirit, and enable us this night to wrestle with thee in private prayer, and not let thee go until thou dost bless us. Give us communion in retirement, with the Father of our spirits, that thus our souls may prosper and be in health. O may we be continually growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sixth Week.

SHORTER PRAYERS.

LXXI.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

PRAISE FOR SABBATH MERCIES—PRAYER FOR A
SPIRITUAL MIND, AND FOR GOD'S MINISTERS.

O God, who art our only refuge and strength, and a present help in times of distress, and the only giver of our multiplied blessings, our Sabbath privileges and national mercies; let us ever acknowledge thee, seek thee, and delight in thee, in times of quietness and peace as well as in times of trouble. Help us to call the Sabbath a delight, holy of the Lord and honourable, and to honour thee.

How many are thy mercies to us in a peaceful and holy Sabbath! We thank thee that on this day we have such abundance of means for becoming wise unto salvation. We have liberty to go to thy house; thy ministers have liberty to preach thy word, none making them afraid; thy assembled people gather together, thy ordinances are administered amongst us pure and uncorrupt from superstition, and thy people unite together in prayer and in praise. All glory be to thy holy name.

Give us on this day a Sabbath-spirit, that like thy holy Apostle, St. John, we may be in the spirit on the Lord's day. Let all our thoughts be fixed on thee, and on those spiritual and heavenly subjects which should fill our souls this day. O Lord, as it is every day our privilege to have our conversation in heaven, may our minds be peculiarly heavenly on this day of rest, which thou hast appointed as a type and foretaste of that eternal rest which remaineth for the people of God. O help our many infirmities, and enable us, in the midst of temptations which have so often beset and hindered us, to worship thee in spirit and in truth. Let us not lose by indolence of soul the blessings of the day; but may we stir up ourselves to take hold on God. Let not the services of the day be lost in mere formality; deliver us from the overpowering weight of the flesh, and grant that while we repeat the appointed words of prayer, our souls may rise as on wings to God; that we may mount up with eagles' wings, that we may run and not be weary, that we may walk and not faint.

Bless thy ministers here and through the whole earth in preaching thy word. May they declare thy truth boldly, powerfully, plainly, and earnestly; and in simplicity and faithfulness suited to the spiritual necessities of their hearers, that each one may be led from what they shall hear this day to resolve to give themselves to the Lord. O may great grace

be upon all the assemblies of thy people, and a pure offering of prayer and praise from thy whole church ascend to thee in every land; and the gospel be fully preached through the world, to be a witness to all nations, to gather in thine elect, and complete the whole spiritual body of Christ.

Give unto us the seeing eye, the hearing ear, and the understanding and believing heart, that we may see, believe, turn unto thee, and be everlastingly saved through Jesus our Redeemer.

O Lord, let this Sabbath be one of great instruction, full of enlightening, quickening, and sanctifying grace to us and all thy saints, and blessed for the enlargement as well as comfort of the church of Christ, that the Redeemer may see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.

LXXII.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

FOR A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD.

Glory be to thee, O Lord, for all the many privileges and blessings which thou hast given unto us on this thy holy day.

Forgive all our past neglect of thine ordinances, and especially of thy precious word. Open our hearts as thou didst Lydia's, to attend to the things spoken. Open our ears to hear the voice of the Saviour. Open our eyes like the Psalmist's to behold wondrous things out of thy law.

We thank thee, that weak and helpless as we are, there is such a treasure for us of promise, of instruction, and of guidance; by which we may be made perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. May every part of thy word be precious and sanctifying to us in all its holiness, fulness, and variety. May the word of prophecy be taken heed to by us, as a light shining in this dark world. May the glorious gospel of thy grace shine in our hearts. May we attend not only to the words spoken by the prophets, but also to the commandments of the Apostles of Christ. May our memory retain thy words. May our hearts delight in it. May our understandings be filled with it, that we may daily grow up in all things into him which is the head, even Christ.

O Lord, grant that all things belonging to the flesh may die in us, and that all things belonging unto the Spirit may live and grow in us. Every Sabbath help us in attaining more and more of thine image and likeness, and more preparedness for the everlasting Sabbath yet to come.

Bless this [parish and] neighbourhood. Let no means of instruction be unimproved, no bible be unblest, and no sermon preached without prospering to the salvation of those who hear.

Bless especially thy church in these days. We thank thee that thou art giving such tokens as we now witness, that the time to favour Zion is so nearly come. Blessed be thou for such a pledge of

the truth of all thy glorious promises, and such an earnest of thy near approach. Make bare thy mighty arm in the sight of all nations, that all flesh may see thy salvation; and every where bring thy church into a prepared and waiting state for the coming of our Lord and Saviour.

Forgive all the iniquities of our holy things, through that great High Priest now in thy presence, making intercession for us; and by him give us all that we have asked from thee, to the glory of thy great name. Amen.

LXXIII.

MONDAY MORNING.

GOD'S MERCIES AND OUR UNWORTHINESS—TO
PROFIT BY THE WORD.

O thou that hearest prayer, and hast promised that unto thee all flesh shall come, purge our iniquities away by the blood of the great sacrifice which Christ made for us, and enable us to enjoy the blessedness of those whom thou causest to approach unto thee.

Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to sing and rejoice. Thou visitest the earth and waterest it; thou preparest the corn, thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness. Thou redeemest our life from destruction, and thou hast given us eternal life in Christ Jesus. All glory and praise now and for ever be

unto the Father of our mercies and the God of all our comfort.

Receive, O Lord, this our tribute of praise and thanksgiving. We are unworthy of the least of thy mercies. We confess with one accord our sinfulness; the humbling alienation of our minds from thee, our great dulness in spiritual things, and our eagerness in earthly things; our unbelief, our impenitence, and our slothfulness in the divine life. O Lord, forgive us all our sins; we plead only the propitiation made for them by the Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord Jesus, send thy Spirit unto us from the Father to renew our souls.

Quicken us for thy name's sake; draw us, and we will run after thee. Help us to set our affections on things above, and not on things on the earth. Give us precious faith, true repentance, stir us up to all diligence to make our calling and election sure, and quicken us to continual acts of mutual help and love one towards another. O let us not only know, but do thy will; not only hear the command to pray always and not faint, but may we give ourselves unto prayer and know what it is to walk with thee in happy fellowship.

May thy Spirit bring to our recollection the truths which we yesterday heard; and may we bring into this day's conduct the holy lessons of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through faith may we profit by what we have heard. We ask for the

same mercies for all his disciples, and his professing people through the world.

Let the healing beams of the Sun of Righteousness rise on all Jews and Gentiles, and shine till at length our Lord Christ returns in his full glory, and all the ends of the world remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations worship before thee.

Bless especially our own land, our own church, and make us blessings to others through Jesus our Redeemer.

LXXIV.

MONDAY EVENING.

TO RECEIVE OUT OF THE FULNESS OF CHRIST.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the King of glory, the Saviour of sinners, the refuge of our souls; thou who livest and wast dead, and art alive for evermore, having the keys of death and hell; receive us weary and burdened with sin, and give us thy salvation; for we come to thee, and desire to take thy yoke upon us and learn of thee.

We believe that thou, who hast once died for us on the accursed tree, wilt come to be our judge; we therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood. Open our eyes and turn us from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that we may receive for-

givenness of all our sins, and inheritance among them that are sanctified, by faith which is in thee.

O exalted Prince and Saviour, give us thine own Spirit that we may follow thee in thy sufferings and humiliation, in thy patient labour and self-denial, in thy meekness and gentleness; and may daily take up the cross for thy sake; looking finally to be with thee and to behold thy face in righteousness, and to be satisfied with awaking with thy likeness. Be thou our light and our glory, now and evermore.

Almighty Father, we rejoice that it has pleased thee that all fulness should dwell in the Son of thy love, and that by his death we should be reconciled to thee: may we at the last be presented faultless before the presence of thy glory with exceeding joy. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable goodness to us.

Still continue to do us good and to bless us. Especially give unto us thine own Holy Spirit in all his gracious offices; to convince us of sin in our unbelief of Christ; to convince us of his righteousness, in his finished and complete salvation, and going to the Father for us; and to convince us of judgment in the condemnation of Satan and our victory over him. Strong in thy strength, may we be watchful, stand fast in the faith and quit ourselves like men, and may all things be done by us with charity.

Look in mercy upon a sinful world. O thou, who +

wouldest have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth, hear our prayers for all men. Bless all in authority over us, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. May thy people every where shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life, and continually add to thy church multitudes who shall be everlastingly saved, through Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

LXXV.

TUESDAY MORNING.

PRAISE FOR GOSPEL BLESSINGS, AND PRAYER TO
FULFIL DAILY DUTY.

Almighty Father, in the name of Jesus Christ our one and only Mediator, the way, the truth, and the life, we now come unto thee. Give us access through him by one Spirit with freedom and confidence of heart. We praise thee, we bless thee, we exalt together thy grace to us, in setting forth such an all-sufficient propitiation, to declare thy righteousness for the remission of sins through thy forbearance to us. O grant unto us all faith in his blood for the remission of all our past sins, and may that blood purge our consciences from dead works to serve thee the living God. We thank thee for that new covenant made through him, and established on such precious promises, that thou wilt put thy laws into our

minds and write them in our hearts, and that thou wilt be unto us a God and we shall be unto thee a people, and thou wilt remember our sins and our iniquities no more.

God of all grace, be it unto us according to thy gracious word; may we all, without one exception, take hold of thy covenant, receive its blessings gratefully and gladly, and improve them diligently; and walk worthy of our high calling in all holy tempers and Christian graces.

Assist us by thy Spirit to fulfil the duties of our stations faithfully this day; whether directing or obeying, teaching or learning, ruling or serving; may our aim be simple in seeking to please thee; may our hearts be single in loving thee chiefly, and with our whole soul, loving others according to thy word, without dissimulation. Preserve us from dishonouring thy name, and from falling away from thy truth. May we all be watchful, laborious and diligent servants of that Heavenly Master who has given to us our several talents and appointed our stations; knowing the account to be rendered to him at his coming, and seeking above all things to be approved of thee in that day.

Bless those that are over us in the Lord, and admonish us; may we ever esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Give us grace to be thoughtful for others; to bear their burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ; to support the weak, to be

patient towards all, not rendering evil for evil to any, but contrariwise blessing, and ever following that which is good.

Bless our country. We thank thee for all the social comforts, domestic blessings, and national mercies which abound in our land, and for thy holy church which thou hast established in our borders. May the families of our nation become the families of the true Israel. May the literal Israel be grafted in again to their own olive. May thousands and tens of thousands through all Christendom be brought out of the darkness of Popery, infidelity and worldliness, and be made ready as a people prepared for the Lord. Hear us in behalf of all nations, and may Christ reign in every land, for his name's sake.

LXXVI.

TUESDAY EVENING.

FOR GRACE TO DO GOD'S WILL, AND FOR FAMILY
UNION IN CHRIST.

Everlasting Lord God, the mighty God, the Holy One, who art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look upon iniquity, we confess together this evening that we have sinned against thee, that we are exposed to thy curse, and under the condemnation of thy holy law; but Christ Jesus, thy Son, our Lord, has died for us; Christ Jesus has laid in the grave for us; he has risen again for our justifica-

tion, and he is now in heaven in our nature to make intercession for us.

O Lord, give us confidence of pardon, and peace of conscience, through the atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may be enabled to serve thee with a free and joyful heart. And so largely pour thy grace upon us, that we may, like that divine Master who is our great example, live wholly to thee, take up our daily cross, delight in thy will, find it as our meat to do that will, and ever be willing to sacrifice ourselves to the good of others. May we know that thus we shall best promote thy glory, and our own happiness, as well as the best and everlasting good of others.

Give us grace to live more according to our knowledge and avowed principles, as the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know these things, but alas we come far short of them; may we take up our cross, and deny ourselves and follow our Lord, till we rise to the happiness which our Saviour has set before us, when he said, If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Bless us as a family; may we live in increasing love to each other. Let not one be undecided or unconverted. Give us a far higher union than flesh and blood and mutual temporal advantages can bestow. Give us to be one in Christ; not only for time but for eternity, and all to be partakers of his saving benefits. Bless each of our respective families, grant

them all that is needful and good for their bodies and souls, and guard them from all dangers. Bless our rulers, our church and country. Bless all the nations of the earth. Send thy Spirit upon them, and turn them, O turn them from idolatry, Mahommedanism, Popery, infidelity, lawlessness, mere nominal Christianity, and every evil way, to love, serve, and obey thee. Gather thine elect speedily from all lands, bring back quickly thy people Israel to their own inheritance, and fulfil all thy promises, in the coming and glorious kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. To whom with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

LXXVII.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

THAT WE MAY PARTAKE OF THE RICHES OF
CHRIST.

O Lord our God, to thee belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against thee; grant that we may more and more taste that the Lord is gracious, and that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. May our whole life be a constant coming to Jesus as unto the living stone. O may we carry on a blessed and ever-enriching traffic and commerce in the inexhaustible riches of

Christ, parting with and losing our poverty in his wealth, our sin in his righteousness, our ignorance in his knowledge, our folly in his wisdom, and our weakness in his strength. O may there be a blessed interchange between Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, and our needy and sinful souls; that as he was made sin for us, so we may be made the righteousness of God in him; as he was a man of sorrows for us, we may be filled with joy and peace in believing through him. O our God, continually thus supply all our wants out of his fulness; and enable us to receive grace from Jesus to purify our souls, and make us his peculiar people, filled with ardent and intense love to our Saviour, and zealous of good works.

O Lord, we are most sinful and most weak in ourselves! What is our life, when we look at our own doings, but one accumulation of broken resolutions and unfulfilled purposes of serving thee; one wreck of unaccomplished aims and desires to do thy will. In every thing we have come short of thy glory; every thing we say and do, seen in the light of the Sun of Righteousness, and compared with thy holy and perfect and good law, and thy spotless purity, is full of defect and sin. Yet open our eyes to see, and give us to know and believe, and be assured that there is in Christ free pardon of all our offences, and perfect righteousness for our justification. While we acknowledge the evil of our own thoughts—for

thou, God, weighest the spirits—O lead us in thy good ways, and teach us to rejoice in thee, making us wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil, and full of labours of love for the good of others.

Lift up, then, thy countenance, and shine upon us, and grant that we may live in the light of thy love. Let us not be deceived by the gaudy show of this vain world, and seek rest in its empty appearance of good; but may we have real good in choosing that which pleases thee. May Christ be formed in us the hope of glory. May we be looking for him who will appear the second time without sin unto salvation. May we dwell in him and he in us, and may we seek to diffuse continually the knowledge of his grace to others.

Unto Thee who hast loved us, and washed us from our sins in thine own blood, and hast made us to be kings and priests unto God even the Father, be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

LXXVIII.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

TO KNOW GOD, AND BE DELIVERED FROM SIN.

O gracious Lord, who hast promised to be the God of all the families of Israel, and that they shall be thy people, and all whose promises are sure to us in Christ Jesus, give us to know at this time the real

privilege of having thee for the God of our family, and the unspeakable benefits of uniting in prayer at thy mercy-seat. O teach us to cast all our care on thee, in the assurance that thou carest for us. Teach us to be careful for nothing, but in every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to let our requests be made known unto thee.

O Lord, reveal thyself unto us more and more in the face of Jesus Christ. May we see and know thy beauty and thy glory; how infinitely full thou art of wisdom and power, riches and goodness, love and compassion, righteousness and forgiveness. Give us to discern with what assurance poor sinful creatures, who are lost and undone in themselves, may yet return unto thee, the most Holy One, as to a tender and merciful Father, who dost invite us, so far alienated from thee by our sins, to be reconciled unto thee by Jesus Christ.

Behold, O Lord, we come unto thee; thou hast made us, thou hast redeemed us; we believe thy love, and we know that thou wilt receive us, and bless us when we return to thee.

And, O Lord, deliver us from the power, bondage and pollution, as well as from the guilt of sin. Thou hast not spared thine own Son, his blood was shed for us; thou hast sent us thy glorious gospel, thou hast spared and blessed us all our life long to this day, wilt thou not then do for us yet more, what we so infinitely need, when we ask it in the name of

thy dear Son. O Lord, take away our evil heart of unbelief, give us victory over temptation, rescue us from the bondage of our iniquities, break the chains of our habitual sins, and give unto us the holy, happy and joyful liberty of those whom the Son makes free. Give us grace for that, from which our corruption especially shrinks, the patient, silent, laborious, unwearied fulfilling, daily, of self-denying duties, living soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, in full hope of the salvation ready to be revealed in these last times.

We pray for our church and all its ministers, especially our own. We pray for all the churches of Christ, and that the receiving of thy people Israel may speedily be as life from the dead to the world. We pray for the prosperity of our country. God be merciful to us and bless us, and at length give us grace to use our riches and commerce for thy glory, and the diffusion of that truth with which we have so long been intrusted and blessed. Hear us, for Christ's sake.

LXXIX.

THURSDAY MORNING.

FOR SELF-DEDICATION AND THE SPIRIT OF LOVE.

O Lord our God, who hast set apart thy people for thyself, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable unto thee, by Christ Jesus,

enable us now to fulfil that high office and privilege to which thou hast called us, and to present our bodies a living sacrifice unto thee. O what cause hast thou given us ever to show forth thy praises, in having called us out of darkness into thy marvellous light. Thy mercies also are new every morning; notwithstanding all our great sinfulness, we are still spared and preserved together as a family, and blessed with great and innumerable blessings: from thee comes all the enjoyment of present good, from thee the enlivening prospect of better things to come; all we have, all we hope for is from thee. Yea, Lord, our very necessities show the fulness of thy mercy; our weariness gives us the sweetness of rest; our hunger the refreshment of food, our cold the comfort of warmth, and our very sinfulness shows the riches of thy redeeming grace in Christ Jesus; we will praise thee so long as we have our being, even through the countless ages of eternity.

O Lord, all whose ways are wise and good, and who never hast failed those who seek thee, enable us to endure temptation, that when we are tried we may receive the crown of life. Give us to live always to thy glory, to bear much fruit, to spend each hour of this day not to ourselves, but unto thee. Especially assist us ever to look to Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, our guide, strength, and pattern. May we live with him, to him, and by him, and may his lovely and glorious character be more and more

impressed on our hearts, and words, and lives. O help us all to fulfil our own appointed duties in the world, patiently, laboriously and diligently. Deliver us from selfishness, malice and hatred. May we forget injuries, but never forget kindness, and may no subsequent unkindness efface the grateful recollection of former love. May it ever be our aim to overcome evil with good, and to look at all the conduct of others in the spirit of faithful, patient, forbearing, and persevering love.

We thank thee, from the heart, for the family love which thou hast given to us; it is by thee we dwell together in unity. O increase more and more our love to thee, and to each other in thee, and may it overflow to all our relatives, and friends, and neighbours, our church and our country. Bless the whole of Christendom; reform corrupt churches, and revive decayed churches, and enlarge the spiritual blessedness of thy people on every side. May the glory of our Lord rise upon Jerusalem, and the Gentiles come to his light, and kings to the brightness of his rising, for our Redeemer's sake.

LXXX.

THURSDAY EVENING.

THAT WE MAY ATTAIN HEAVENLY GLORY.

Almighty and Eternal Lord, who bearest this glorious and fearful name—the Lord our God—and

who hast told us that thou wilt once more shake not the earth only, but also heaven; enable us to receive now that kingdom from above, which cannot be moved, and to serve thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear; knowing that even our God is a consuming fire.

O Lord, according to thine own gracious covenant, write thy laws in our hearts, and be our God. May we know that thine eye is ever upon us, an eye of tender pity, but yet of searching purity. Do thou then, by thine own Spirit, purify our hearts, and drive far away all that would defile thy temple.

We thank thee that the full light of the glorious gospel of Christ, and of the whole revealed word of God, which many prophets and kings have desired to see and did not see, shines so clearly upon us. We bless thee also that thou hast better things still in store, in the salvation ready to be revealed in the last times for thy people, and that their utmost wishes and prayers shall be accomplished in the kingdom of glory. O may none of us come short of that rest, through unbelief, but to-day, while it is called day, may we hear thy voice and live.

We bless thee, O Lord, for all thine unnumbered mercies to this household in times past. Order all our future course according to thy deep wisdom, full love, and tender compassion, and according to that all-seeing and all-discerning grace with which thou dost direct the way of each of thy children for thy glory and their highest good.

While we remain together here, may we 'be more and more closely knit together in the bonds of holy and heavenly love, may we be more helpful to each other in the ways of God, and finally may we all, without one exception, meet together around thy throne of glory, where all sin and imperfection shall be for ever left behind.

The blessings which we ask for ourselves we also ask for our relatives, friends, and neighbours. Grace be with all them that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Bless our minister; may thy grace and strength be abundantly imparted to him, and may we fulfil those solemn duties which thou hast laid upon those taught in the word. May we honour all men, love the brotherhood, fear thee, and honour all in authority over us. God Almighty bless and guide, guard and prosper the church and all its pastors, and establish speedily thine own kingdom over all the earth, for Jesus Christ's sake.

LXXXI.

FRIDAY MORNING.

FOR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, AND DELIVERANCE FROM
SIN.

O thou blessed Lord Jesus Christ, who art the true light that lighteth every man that comes into the world, the fountain of peace and joy, light and love, on whose countenance the hosts above around

the throne are now gazing with inexpressible delight, while thou art seated with thy Father on his throne, waiting till thine enemies be made thy footstool; help us to adore thee, to trust in thee, to follow thee, and to confess thee now in the midst of a world despising and rejecting thy great salvation.

O Lord Jesus, fulfil to us thy gracious promise, that thou wilt be as the light of the morning when the sun arises, even a morning without clouds; shine upon us, dispel the mists of ignorance and the slumber of sin, awaken us to reflect thy radiant image, enjoy thy glorious works, and raise our songs of praise unto thee. O give us the light of knowledge, purity and joy, and evermore shine thou into our hearts.

O Lord Jesus, abide in us and give us to abide in thee, that we may bear much fruit; and purge us, that we may bear more fruit. O deliver us from all sin and unbelief; from all unholy tempers and evil passions; from pride and from covetousness; from self-will, and self-wisdom, and self-righteousness; from vanity and high-mindedness. May thy glorious gospel and thy all-sufficient Spirit be mighty to the pulling down the strong holds of sin and Satan in our hearts; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. May we also be built up in Christ as lively stones, for a spiritual

house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices of prayer and of praise, of love and of obedience, acceptable unto God by thee.

Sanctify all trials, pain, distress, weakness, and affliction, to our highest good, and enable us to honour thee in all things, and grant that all may help us in preparation for thy heavenly kingdom.

Bless the [parish and] place in which we dwell. Let thy grace be largely manifested here, the ministry of thy word fully blessed here; may thy presence be known and felt among thy people; thy love and tenderness move them; and the hope and expectation of thy glory be continually present in their minds. Bless thy whole church. Great Shepherd of the sheep, watch over thy flock, wherever scattered in this evil world; bring Jews and Gentiles into thy fold, and let there be one fold and one Shepherd. To thee, O Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and evermore.

LXXXII.

FRIDAY EVENING.

DELIVERANCE FROM ALL DANGERS SOUGHT.

O Lord our God, whose ear is ever open to the prayers of thy people, returning unto thee by Jesus Christ, however weak, foolish and sinful they may have been, give us grace now to approach with unfeigned hearts unto thee. Thou knowest all the sins

which we have committed; all the temptations to which we are exposed; the weakness and waywardness of our hearts, and the many snares cast in our way by our great enemy Satan. Succour us and deliver us, we beseech thee. Thou knowest how the enemy oppresses our souls, strives to dim the view of Jesus our mighty Deliverer, to fill us with despondency, and to turn away our minds from the coming glory, and keep us wholly engrossed with this vain world. Mighty indeed are the obstacles in our way, yet we know thou hearest, we know thou answerest prayer; give unto us then much of the spirit of prayer; may we never feel that Satan is unconquerable, but may we know that he is subdued and vanquished, and that if we resist him he will flee from us. Enable us then ever to resist the Devil, and bruise him under our feet very shortly. Thou knowest how great our outward mercies and how many our spiritual blessings have been, and how little we have improved them. We have reason to confess before thee our want of faith, and earnestness, and zeal; our coldness, and spiritual deadness, and indifference, and emptiness. Oh blot out all our sins, and give to us thy quickening Spirit, and create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us, and by thy omnipotent strength, may we have victory and prevail over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

O Lord, give us to know the depth of thy eternal

love to us; teach us thy heavenly truth and the exhaustless fulness of its treasures; make us thus wise unto salvation, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and enrich our souls for eternity. Help us to rejoice in the Lord alway, and may this joy be our strength in our conflict with our many spiritual foes. Especially give us victory over the love of the world, and the covetous desires of its pleasures, riches, and honours. Let not love of ease and quiet, let not self-indulgence and home comforts keep us from duty. Let us not mind high things, but condescend to men of low estate, visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.

O Lord, bless our church and our country; spare us, though we deserve thy judgments; give us repentance. May those who rule set Christ always before them; those who minister in holy things be endued with power from on high, and thy church be protected, instructed and enlarged continually. Hear us, according to the fulness of thy grace in Christ Jesus.

LXXXIII.

SATURDAY MORNING.

FOR REPENTANCE, FAITH, AND HOLINESS.

Eternal and all-glorious Lord, infinite in wisdom, almighty in power, spotless in holiness, and boundless in love, we praise and magnify thee that thou

hast revealed thyself to us sinners, in the costly sacrifice of the precious blood of Christ, as our reconciled Father, and all thy perfections as our portion and joy for ever. Sinful and guilty as we are, we can and we do now bless the holy name of our God, who forgives all our iniquities and heals all our diseases, redeems our life from destruction, and crowns us with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

We bless thee for the assurance that with thy only Son also thou freely givest us all things. We ask then first for a genuine and deep repentance for sin, that we may ever view our sins with godly sorrow and unfeigned abhorrence. We farther ask of thee a full and entire trust in the Lord Jesus Christ; give us a simple confidence in his atoning blood, a constant regard to his sacrifice for our sins, that by the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus our conscience may be pacified. O may we know each of us, in our happy and daily experience, what it is to be elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father unto sanctification and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. May this blood not only deliver our conscience from the load of guilt and our souls from the curse of the law, but may it deliver us from the power of corruption, and inwardly cleanse and purify our hearts from the love and pollution of sin. Like Noah, may we find grace in thy sight, and be just and upright in our generation, and walk with thee. Carry on thy work daily in us, till at length,

perfectly free from all sin, we join the blessed company above, who have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Give us now grace and strength cheerfully and gladly to fulfil our duties this day. Bless our intercourse with each other, and with all our fellow-men. Grace and peace be multiplied to the saints and faithful brethren every where. Heal the divisions of thy people, and make them of one mind and of one heart. Bless our magistrates and all in authority. Relieve the distressed. Enlarge that blessed kingdom which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, and may thy Holy Spirit every where be given to thy ministers, filling them with heavenly wisdom to instruct and profit thy people on the morrow, in all the churches of Christ through the world. Hear us for his name's sake.

LXXXIV.

SATURDAY EVENING.

FOR FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE, AND HEAVENLY WISDOM.

We praise thee, O God, for the mercy which preserves us from day to day and from week to week, and which has brought us in peace to the close of this week. Prepare us now to come before thee in prayer. Give us a lively faith in thy goodness, love and all-sufficiency, and a spirit of fervent and enlarged desire for thy grace: according to thine own

most gracious promise, Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

O Lord, like thy holy Apostles of old, we would earnestly call upon thee as they did, Lord! increase our faith; now our faith is weak and feeble, but grant that we may grow strong in faith, and give glory to thee, and thus attain inward purity and victory over the world.

Nor let our hope grow dim, but as time rolls on may our expectation of thy glory become more lively; may we lift up our eyes to the eternal hills, look for thy coming, and long for the happy period when the kingdom and dominion and greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Grant that our love also may grow warmer and abound more and more in all judgment and knowledge. May we think of all that thou hast done for us, and dwell on the infinite fulness of thy eternal compassion. O may we be merciful as thou art merciful, and dwell in love and in the constant exercise of all its forbearing, patient, self-sacrificing, kind, and laborious efforts for the good of others.

Give us also heavenly wisdom to direct us in thy way. When we would serve thee, through our spiritual blindness, we know not how to do so, or what to do, till thou impart to us the heavenly gift. Make

us then wise unto salvation, wise to serve thee ourselves, and wise to bring salvation to others, and to win their souls to Christ. O may each of us have a share in that precious promise, They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. With these spiritual blessings, give unto us all needful temporal good. Protect us and send us quiet and refreshing rest this night. Guard us from all evil, and especially from the love of sin, and may we rise in the morning refreshed and strengthened both in body and spirit for all the services of thy holy day. O may the approaching Sabbath be distinguished by large communications of thy grace to thy ministers and people; by the conversion of many, many precious souls, and the refreshing and strengthening and revival of thy churches in all lands, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Seventh Week.

COTTAGER'S FAMILY PRAYERS.

LXXXV.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

TO KEEP THE SABBATH HOLY.

Oh Lord Jesus, this is thine own day; we will rejoice and be glad in it. We bless thee for this day of rest after the labour of the week. We bless thee for thy house of prayer, where the gospel is preached to the poor. We bless thee for thy holy word, which gives understanding to the simple, and for all the other mercies of a happy Christian Sabbath. What thanks do we owe thee, O Lord of the Sabbath, who on this day rose from the dead, for all the love thou dost show to poor sinners like us, in blotting out all our sins, and preparing us by Sabbaths on earth for an endless Sabbath in heaven.

But, O God, we are weak and helpless; if thou do not give us thy grace, we shall not profit by this holy day. Be with us through all its hours. May we keep not only from our daily work, but from idle words and foolish thoughts. When we go to thy house let not our prayers be mere lifeless words, but

the very wishes of our hearts. May our souls be full of joy and love when we sing thy praise; and, when thy minister declares thy truth, open our minds to understand it, and our hearts to receive it.

Bless our children; let us diligently use this day to teach them in thy ways, and bless those kind friends who at their schools help us in this. Bless all thy ministers, especially our own minister, and be with thy people who in all parts of the world shall this day worship thee our own God, for our blessed Saviour's sake.

LXXXVI.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

TO REMEMBER THE LESSONS OF THE SABBATH.

O Lord God, at the close of thy holy day we come once more as a family before thee to bless thee for its many mercies, and to beseech thee to forgive all our sins. We confess that we have too much spoken our own words, and sought our own pleasure this day; we have not, as we ought, worshipped thee in the beauty of holiness: our thoughts wandered to other things, and our hearts were cold. May God forgive us for the sake of Jesus, and grant that each time we look at our sins it may make us love this precious Saviour more. May we love him so as to try in all things to do his will. Now write upon our hearts what we have heard, that we may

have it to think on through all the labours of the week. Let our hearts be like the good ground, that the word we have heard may bring forth much fruit. Bless all who worshipped with us in thy house; as we called them our brethren there, may we show them a brother's spirit through the week, and laying aside anger, malice, and evil-speaking, learn to love our neighbour as ourselves. As we have prayed this day to be delivered from temptation, may we be careful not to run into it in the week. Do thou strengthen and help us, for of ourselves we can do nothing. Bless the poor heathen who know not the Sabbath, and hasten the happy day, when Jesus will come again, and all the world rejoice in his love, for his name's sake. Amen.

LXXXVII.

MONDAY MORNING.

TO GO THROUGH THE WEEK'S WORK IN A SABBATH SPIRIT.

O God, our heavenly Father, before we commence the labours of another week, we rejoice to ask thy blessing upon them; for the blessing of the Lord it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow therewith. Let us now bring into practice the lessons we yesterday learned, and live through the week in in a Sabbath spirit.

Let not the cares of this world drive the truths

which we heard out of our minds; let us not be troubled and careful about many things, but like Mary choose the one thing needful. Give us to know so much of thy love that we may be able to leave all the rest with thee; knowing that God, who gave his own dear Son to die for us, will not let us want for any thing else that is good for us. May we therefore go with a joyful heart about our daily work, only watching and praying to be kept from sin, which would grieve our gracious Saviour.

And now praising thee for all thy mercy, asking thy blessing on all whom we love, we commend ourselves to thy care and keeping, in the name of our gracious Lord and Saviour. Amen.

LXXXVIII.

MONDAY EVENING.

PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCY TO US SINNERS.

O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come; unto thee do we come, for thou hast heard our prayer. We sought thy blessing this morning, and truly we can say that through the day goodness and mercy have followed us. We have been preserved from all dangers; we have had food to eat and clothes to cover us, while many have been starving in hunger and nakedness; we have a home to shelter us, rest to refresh us after the labours of the day; and besides all this thou hast given us the

richer mercies of thy salvation. Jesus is our Saviour, and heavenly glory is set before us.

But, O Lord, though thou art so gracious, we confess we have not loved thee as we ought. We have forgotten thy goodness, and been rebellious, disobedient children towards thee our heavenly Father, and greatly do we need each night the precious blood of Jesus to wash away the sins of the day; Oh blot them all out, and hide thy face from them.

Bless all our relations and friends; let not one whom we love be walking the ways of eternal death, and above all, O God, grant that our dear children may be made children of God. Give us grace to bring them up for him. Watch over us this night for our Saviour's sake. Amen.

LXXXIX.

TUESDAY MORNING.

STRENGTH FOR THE DAY'S DUTIES.

Almighty God, surrounded with all the mercies of another morning, we would first of all offer our hearty thanks unto thee for all thy goodness, for the quiet sleep of the night, for health and strength for the work of the day, for the light of the sun, for the food we eat, and, above all, for spiritual mercies, all praise be unto thee.

And now, O Lord, another day is before us; give us grace to fulfil its duties, for without thee we can

do nothing. We shall have many temptations to sin, strengthen us to resist them. When Satan would tempt us to any evil thing, may we, like our Saviour, say, Get thee behind me, Satan, and not parley one moment with him. Give us to know sin as that hateful thing which crucified Jesus, and so may we be always on the watch against it.

Let us not only be Christians in name, content with saying our prayers, but Christians in deed and truth all the day long, following always in the steps of Jesus. Take away our sins, watch over us and bless us for his name's sake. Amen.

XC.

TUESDAY EVENING.

LOOKING TO JESUS TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS, AND
FOR HIS COMING.

O Lord God, wearied with the labours of another day, we would once again, before we go to rest, seek a blessing from our heavenly Father. We know, O Lord, that every thought, word and work of this day has been open to thy piercing eye, and how much sin hast thou seen in each one of us! how much pride, idleness, selfishness, self-will, forgetfulness of God! how many things we have done that we ought not to have done, and how many we have left undone that we ought to do! Let the precious blood of Jesus wash away all our sins; we have no

hope but in him. How can we thank thee enough for this precious Saviour; he has delivered us from the flames of hell, he bore the dreadful curse instead of us; blessing and honour and glory and power be for ever to Jesus!

O hasten the happy time when Jesus shall come again to our world, when sorrow and sighing shall flee away, and the earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Help us now to prepare for that day, that it may not overtake us as a thief, and be a time of terror to us, but may we serve Jesus now in humility, that we may reign with his saints for ever. And now, Lord, take us under thy protection this night, and give us quiet sleep for our Redeemer's sake.

XCI.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

TO DO ALL WITH A HEAVENLY MIND.

O God, thou hast said, Ask, and ye shall have, seek, and ye shall find; it is thine own promise, fulfil it to us, let us not even come to thee in prayer for a few minutes without gaining a blessing.

Thou knowest how much our time must be occupied in providing for each day's wants, and what danger we are in of forgetting our precious souls; may God preserve us from this; while our hands are busy at work may our hearts be often lifted up to

God; may we remember thy command, "Pray without ceasing."

Be with us, and give us thy blessing, that whatsoever we do may prosper. May we remember that the commonest work done in a spirit of love to Jesus, is acceptable spiritual service unto God. May we love our Bibles, may no day pass without our reading them, and may we never read without getting good to our souls. And we pray for these blessings too on all we love. Bless our friends and benefactors, reward them for all their kindness to us. How great is thy love to us, that a poor man's prayers, amidst all our own necessities, may call down a blessing from God. Bless our [whole parish, our] minister, the schools, the rich, the poor, every one dwelling here. May we be a people serving God and rejoicing in his goodness; and let us not only pray for this, but do what we can to advance true religion among our neighbours, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

XCII.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

PRAISE,—PRAYER FOR CONTENTMENT, AND FOR A
BLESSING ON HEATHEN NATIONS.

O God, the God of mercy, our heavenly Father, what shall we render unto thee for all thy goodness? Surely the least we can do is to praise thy blessed name. What love thou dost show us! When thou

wast upon earth, thou hadst not where to lay thy head; we have a home to shelter us. Thou wast basely betrayed by thy own disciple; we have all the happiness of loving each other, and dwelling as a happy family together. We do not deserve all these thy mercies, but we delight to view them as the gifts of our Father's love, the purchase of Jesus Christ's blood, by which alone we have any mercy.

May God make us truly thankful; let us never murmur because we are poor in this world. May we strive to become rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which thou hast promised to them that love thee. O grant that instead of coveting this world's wealth, we may think much of the glory of reigning with Jesus; and strive to be rich in faith and rich towards thee, so that we may have treasure in heaven.

And give us, O Lord, a large heart of love to all men, that we may pray much for them; bless the poor heathen, send out missionaries to teach them to worship the God of love, and not bow down to stocks and stones. When it is in our power to give any thing, however little, to help the great work, we pray that God, who did not despise the widow's mite, may bless the humble offering for Jesus' sake. Amen.

XCIII.

THURSDAY MORNING.

PRAISE FOR ALL THAT JESUS IS AND DOES FOR US.

O Lord God, thou hast said, Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me; we would glorify thee by praising thee for all the new mercies of another morning; for life, health, strength, food, clothes, shelter, more mercies than we can count, and most of all for our blessed Saviour. We thank thee that he has taken away our sins, by his death on the cross. We thank thee that he is our Prophet to teach us, that he reveals his truth to babes, and not to the wise and prudent. We thank thee that he is our Priest, and offers up these poor prayers of ours in heaven, and that he is our King, and defends us from our enemies. We thank thee, O Saviour, that thou wast once a poor man like us, and therefore knowest the wants and fears of a poor man.

O Holy Spirit, teach us to love our blessed Saviour more and more every day. May we now, in our daily work, show that we love him, by doing his will. Help us to remember that every thing we do sows seed for eternity; may we this day sow some good seed of faith, hope, and obedience, to spring up unto eternal glory. We commit ourselves to thy Fatherly care and keeping, for our Saviour's sake. Amen.

XCIV.

THURSDAY EVENING.

CONFESSION,—PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT,—
INTERCESSION FOR THE JEWS.

O Lord, another day is passed and gone, and we cannot go to rest till we have praised thee for all its mercies, and asked forgiveness for our many sins. We have done our own will, walked in our own way, and forgotten God, whose eye has been always on us. Our hearts are full of selfishness and unbelief—forgive our sins, for Jesus' sake. O may we not be content with confessing them with our lips; may we learn to be really sorry for them and strive to conquer them.

Thou hast said, if we, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto our children, much more wilt thou give thy Holy Spirit to them that ask thee; we ask it, O heavenly Father; give it unto us. We are often weighed down with care, we want a Comforter; we are very ignorant, we want a Teacher, to bring all these things to our remembrance. We are weak and sinful, and want to bring forth love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, and all the blessed fruits of the Spirit; give us then thy Spirit.

And, O Lord, pour thy Spirit too on thine ancient people Israel; may they look on Jesus whom they

have pierced, and mourn; bring them back to their own land, that their recovery may be as life from the dead to the world. O give us the spirit of Jesus, to love and pray for the Jews.

Now take us under thy protection this night; may quiet sleep prepare us for to-morrow's work. We ask every blessing for Jesus' sake.

XCV.

FRIDAY MORNING.

FOR GRACE TO FULFIL EACH OUR OWN DUTY.

O Lord God, we are not of ourselves able so much as to think a good thought; we come therefore unto thee for help and strength for another day's work; for thou hast promised "As our day is so shall our strength be."

Let not our religion be a mere matter of words; may our life be like our prayers. As parents, may we bring up our children for God, and not provoke them by evil tempers, nor spoil them by indulgence; as children, may we obey our parents in the Lord, yielding ready, cheerful honour and obedience; as servants, may we obey our masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but with good-will, doing service as unto the Lord and not unto men.

May we be diligent in our work, whatever it is, and be just and true in all our dealings. Let us re-

member the command, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another;" may we rather suffer present want than break this command, and so wrong our neighbour. And seeing that our God searches the heart, may we do all from a right motive, even for the love of him who died and rose again for us, for his name's sake. Amen.

XCVI.

FRIDAY EVENING.

TO BE TAUGHT TO HATE SIN,—FOR THE SUPPLY OF
OUR BODILY WANTS.

O Lord God, though baptized in thy name and under solemn promises to keep thy holy will and commandments, at the close of the day, we have to confess how sadly we have broken our resolutions. As parents, we have failed in our duties to our children, and as children, we have not honoured our parents as we should. Our daily work has not been done as it ought to have been done, in the sight of God; we confess we have sinned—Lord, take away all our iniquity, and receive us graciously.

O let us never, because thou art ready to forgive look on sin as a light thing; but may we remember, those sins that we have to-day committed were part of our Saviour's heavy load on the cross; and may we hate sin as his murderer.

And now, Lord, encouraged by thy love, we would

also bring before thee the wants of our bodies, for thou hast taught us to ask for our daily bread; thou dost feed the birds of the air—heavenly Father, suffer not thy children to starve; thou dost give their bright dress to the flowers of the field—clothe us too, O Lord; we come the more boldly unto thee, for thou didst suffer hunger, thirst and nakedness for us, and thou dost know, by thine own experience, the wants of the poor of thy flock.

We leave all then, O Lord, with thee; give us to trust a Father's love, and lay us down in peace and sleep, knowing that thou, Lord, only makest us dwell in safety, for Christ's sake. Amen.

XCVII.

SATURDAY MORNING.

TO BE KEPT FROM TEMPTATION,—PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Almighty God, the King of kings and lord of lords, the High and Holy One, that inhabitest eternity, we thank thee that thou dost bow down thine ear to hear the poor and needy; that when the poor man cries, the Lord hears him.

To thy care we commit ourselves this day; give us all good, preserve us from all evil, especially preserve us and our dear children from the seductions of evil companions, the temptations of drunkenness and excess. Keep us, Lord, for we ourselves are

ignorant and foolish, from all the errors now about in the world. May we know our Bibles too well ever to listen to the lies of popery and the blasphemies of infidels, or to follow the absurd follies of men given to change. May we rather, from the heart, thank God for all the safety, and protection, and religious blessings we enjoy in this country, and do what a poor person can for our country's good, by fulfilling the duties of our station, and earnestly praying God to send down his blessing on our land.

Bless our rulers, and magistrates; and return, O God, whose eyes watch equally over high and low, and bless each one of us in the work of this day, for Christ's sake. Amen.

XCVIII.

SATURDAY EVENING.

TO PREPARE FOR ETERNITY,—PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH.

Lord, at the close of another week what reason we have to thank thee for all the mercies which this week has brought with it—mercies for our bodies and for our souls. What reason we have too, to be humbled for the sins of this week written against us in God's book; what a debt it is! Lord, blot it out in the blood of Jesus.

May each week that passes remind us how time flies, how soon eternity must come; let us often ask if we are ready to meet our God in judgment, and

not delay to fly to Jesus for refuge, seeing that now is the accepted time. O forbid, gracious God, that one of us should be walking in the broad road to eternal misery; as we live together as one family on earth, may we all be ready for our Saviour's coming, and live together for ever with him in the mansions of heavenly glory.

Bless us, Lord, on the morrow. May no work be left undone to-night to do on the morrow. Bless our minister; teach him, that he may teach us. We thank thee, Lord, for all the blessings we enjoy. May God bless all the ministers of our church; pour thy Spirit very largely on them, and on all thy congregations. Bless too those who love Jesus, though they do not walk in our way; teach them too to submit to the ordinances of man, for the Lord's sake. O show all men the folly of choosing their own way, and the blessedness of choosing the things that please thee, that thy people may be of one mind in every thing, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Passion Week.

XCIX.

SUNDAY MORNING.

FOR GRACE TO LOOK TO A SUFFERING SAVIOUR.

O Lord God Almighty, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who from the beginning didst ordain thy Son Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins, and the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world; we bless thy holy name for all those gracious appointments both of the Old and New Testament, by which this only hope of our souls is kept constantly before thy people. Thanks be to thee for the Lamb slain in the morning and evening sacrifice, under the law, and all those atonements and sacrifices which pointed out Jesus, and the shedding of his blood for us. Thanks be to thee for the sacred ordinance of the Passover, appointed at so remarkable a season of the deliverance of thy people from Egypt, that we might therein discern Christ our Passover slain for us. Thanks be to thee for the full history of this Sacrifice in the Holy Gospels. Thanks be to thee for the Lord's supper to be observed by us in remembrance of his body given and broken, and his blood shed for us.

O Lord, grant that with so many memorials of

this great propitiation for the sins of the whole world, we may never be unmindful of so great a benefit, nor hide so great a light under a bushel, nor neglect so great salvation. Like thy blessed Apostle Paul, may we determine to make Christ, even him crucified, the great subject on which we continually dwell, and may we thankfully avail ourselves of the appointment of thy church for assisting us in fulfilling this great and truly profitable duty.

We do earnestly pray unto thee for grace to make this a special season of quickening, revival and blessedness to our souls. O may thy Spirit take of the things of Christ, and show them to us. May He discover to our souls the glories of his person, as God over all, blessed for ever, and very man in our nature, of our flesh and blood, touched with a feeling of our infirmities, and tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. Especially reveal to us the wonders of his dying love, and all the glorious issues of the stupendous sacrifice made by his death for our sins.

Thus may divine love fill and possess our whole souls; and sin in all its abomination and sinfulness be detected and discovered to us. ☩ grant that henceforward we may hate it with a real hatred, and live wholly to him who died for us.

Grant also that all the ends of the earth may remember at length the sufferings of Jesus, and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations

may worship before thee. As Jesus gave himself a ransom for all, so in due time may it be testified to all, and all know thee from the least to the greatest.

And, O Lord, now give us grace, while worshipping in thy courts this day, ever to be looking to Jesus. May we have fellowship of spirit with all he has done, is doing, and will do for us, and glory in his cross, and by it be crucified to the world and the world to us. Hear us, for His name's sake.

C.

SUNDAY EVENING.

TO BE LIKE THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.

O Lord Jesus Christ, our best friend, our highest benefactor, who didst in thy last days take up thine abode at the dwelling of those whom thou didst specially love, even Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, pour into our hearts such love to thee that we may long for thy presence. Come at this time to us also, and make thy abode with us, and dwell in our hearts by faith. We entreat thee to give us such grace that we may love thee and hear thy words, and grant that the Father may love us, and with thee come unto us, and that both the Father and thyself may constantly dwell in our hearts, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

And may we show to thee and thine all self-denying and devoted love. As Martha rejoiced to serve thee, may we gladly with our best means serve the

Lord. As Lazarus, raised from the dead, sat at meat with thee, so, raised from the death of trespasses and sins, and quickened together with thee, may we sit together and feast with thee in heavenly places, and have meat to eat that the world knows not of.

And with this give us also the listening, loving spirit of Mary. May we like her sit at the feet of Jesus, and hear his words, attend to the one thing needful, and choose the good part that shall not be taken from us. May we, like her, rejoice to be at great cost for our Redeemer, and to pour our best gifts upon him, anointing his feet with the fragrant odours of gifts of love and gratitude. O Holy Ghost, pour into our hearts fervent, glowing, self-sacrificing love to Jesus; love that will show itself, now that he is absent in person, in doing good to the poor always, and especially in diffusing the blessing of his gospel.

And we pray thee keep us far from the grudging, hypocritical and deceitful spirit of the traitor Judas, murmuring at instead of rejoicing in the grateful love of others to thy name, and kingdom, and glory. O Lord, let the whole earth hear and partake of the love of thy church. Let the angel fly through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people. According to thy gracious promise, wherever the gospel

shall be preached throughout the whole world, let Mary's costly love to thee be spoken of for a memorial. And at length let the death and burial of Jesus for us sinners be embalmed in the grateful recollection of all mankind, in that coming kingdom of glory for which we wait.

O Jesus, grant that we like Mary may be thoughtful to do what we can, as she did what she could, duly to celebrate thy death and burial, and show our gratitude to thee for thy inestimable love in our redemption. Being now bought with a price, may we ever consider that we are no longer our own but thine, and may we glorify thee in our bodies and our spirits, which are thine.

Give, O heavenly Father, thy full blessing to what we have heard this day in thy house, or have read from thy word. May it abide with us, and make us fruitful in every good word and work. Grant to such of us as hope shortly to join thy faithful people at thy table, in the solemn ordinance of the Lord's Supper, abundant grace to examine ourselves, and give time to private meditation and prayer, and so to go to that table with a penitent, believing, and loving heart, and to receive by faith the inestimable blessings of the communion of the body and blood of Christ. May this ordinance be specially observed by thy people at this time; be a very large and growing blessing to them, enabling them to feed on Christ by faith now, and to look forward to the blessed

hope of his return and appearance in glory. Hear us, for his name's sake.

CI.

MONDAY MORNING.

FOR GRACE TO MEDITATE ON CHRIST, AND TO
CONFESS HIM.

O our Lord and our God, the first and the last, Thou that livest and wast dead, and art alive for evermore, to whose incarnation, sufferings, and death for us we owe all our present blessings, every hope of future good, and especially the ground of our confidence in the judgment to come, and the gift of eternal life—all glory be unto thee. We desire grace of thee, to give more time and thought to consider thy sufferings on the cross, thy putting away our sins by the sacrifice of thyself, and to meditate on all thy love to our souls.

May we set thee, our dying Lord, continually before our minds, ever looking unto Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith. Enable us to meditate much on those parts of thy word, which either in type, or prophecy, or history, or doctrine, or songs of triumphant joy in heaven, bring before us thy atoning sacrifice, and the full propitiation thereby made for our sins. Nor let us be ashamed of the sacrifice of Christ, by which our sins are taken away, nor keep it back from the view of others; but may

we confess it more boldly and openly, glory in it more continually, and find it daily more effectually the power of God to our salvation, and that of countless numbers of believers in our own land and among all men, Jews and Gentiles, throughout the world.

O Lord Jesus, grant unto us to know that we are justified not by the works of the law, but by faith in thee. Through the law, like thy blessed apostle Paul, may we be dead to the law, that we may live unto God. May we be crucified with thee, O Christ, yet live; yet not we, but thou thyself living in us; and the life which we now live in the flesh may we live by faith in thee, the Son of God, who didst love us and give thyself for us. O precious Saviour, divine Redeemer, and quickly returning Lord and King, hear our prayers, for thy name's sake, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory now and evermore. Amen.

CII.

MONDAY EVENING.

HOSANNAS TO THE SAVIOUR—PRAYERS FOR HIS
SPEEDY RETURN TO ZION.

O our divine Redeemer, who, before thy sufferings, didst, as the King of Zion, ride into Jerusalem meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass, we would join the joyful acclamation of the great multitude by whom thou wast welcomed, crying, Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed

is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. We worship and adore thee, our King, our God and Saviour, for thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father.

O mercifully grant unto us not only to welcome thee in joyful words of praise, but may all we have, be at thy service, according as it is needed for thy kingdom, and in every thing may we know and follow in this our day the things which belong to our peace. Let them not be hid from our eyes, but may we walk in the light while we have the light; and knowing now the time of our visitation, may we take up our cross and confess thy name before the world.

O gracious Father, mercifully by thine own Spirit draw all our souls unto Christ, that we may have life. May we come to Christ to be taught by him, to trust in his atonement, to obey his commands, and to rejoice in his grace and love. May our children know thee, love thee, and welcome thee, even now, as in the temple of old the children cried, Hosanna to the Son of David; and still do thou perfect praise out of the mouth of babes and sucklings.

Grant too that we may ever be looking for that promised time when our Saviour shall come again in the glory of his Father. O hasten the day when thy people Israel shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, coming in the clouds

of heaven, and shall then nationally and with one voice join in saying, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hasten the time when they shall look on him whom they have pierced, and mourn. Hasten the day when all men shall be drawn to Christ, and the Lord shall be King over all the earth; and in that day there shall be one Lord, and his name one. Hear us, O our Father, and thus glorify thy Son Jesus through the world, for his name's sake.

CIII.

TUESDAY MORNING.

SINS OF THE GENTILE CHURCHES CONFESSED, AND
PRAYER FOR CLEANSING.

O Lord Jesus Christ, once crucified for us, and now our exalted Prince and Saviour, who hast planted us as fig-trees in thy vineyard and lookest for fruit, and if thou findest none year after year, mayest justly sentence us to perpetual barrenness, pardon us and spare us who deserve thy righteous wrath. Thou didst not spare the people of Israel, who refused and rejected thee, and denied the Holy One and the Just, and killed thee the Prince of Life in their day of visitation; yet we beseech thee look in mercy upon us, and grant us in this our day of grace true repentance and remission of our sins.

We Gentile Christians, like thy people Israel, have very far revolted from thee, and fallen away by

apostacy and unbelief. We mourn before thee the sad condition not only of the Eastern churches and of the Roman churches, but also of thy Reformed churches through the earth. We mourn that thy churches have not taken warning by thy past judgments on Israel, nor by the woes already poured out on ancient Christian churches. They have not repented, and given thee glory. Have mercy, have mercy upon us a sinful nation, a seed of evil doers, and children that are corrupters. Give us grace to wash and be made clean in that fountain which thou hast opened for sin and uncleanness; to cease to do evil and learn to do well; to seek judgment, to relieve the oppressed, to judge the fatherless, and plead for the widow. May thy churches every where be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain and are ready to die, and may we remember how we have received and heard and hold fast and repent, lest thou come on us as a thief, and find us all ignorant of thy coming and unprepared for it.

Cleanse thy spiritual Temple, O Jesus, through the world. Cast out of it, and cast out of our hearts all worldliness, love of money, and every thing that would defile and pollute what thou hast claimed for thyself. Baptized in thy name, and consecrated to thy service, may we be kept pure for thee, and preserved from seeking to join together the service of God and the service of Mammon.

O may thy love, thou precious Saviour, constrain

us to surrender ourselves wholly to thee. Seeing thou didst die for us all, and we all died in thee, grant that we which live may no longer live to ourselves, but unto thee who died for us and rose again. Hear us, for thy name's sake.

CIV.

TUESDAY EVENING.

FOR GRACE TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST'S
SUFFERINGS.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who before thy crucifixion knewest all things that should befall thee at Jerusalem, and yet with constant mind, didst go before thy disciples, straitened till thy suffering baptism was all accomplished, make us willing to go through our lighter sufferings for thy sake; and may we, by thy grace, never shrink from the wrath and reproach of man for thee, but willingly endure it for thy sake.

Blessed Redeemer, make us more and more like thyself; O Lord God, so help us that we may never be confounded, but may set our face as a flint against all that is sinful, and never be ashamed of thy gospel as the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, both Jew and Gentile.

What thanks, what eternal thanks we owe unto thee for thy patient, enduring, untiring and unequalled zeal! O thou once tempted, tried, suffering and dying Lord, now reigning in glory, all praise be

unto thee that nothing stopped thee in thy course of persevering and self-sacrificing love, till thou hadst made a complete and finished satisfaction for all our sins in thy death on the cross. All glory be to thy holy name. And let not all this costly love be received by us in vain. May we know the power of thy resurrection and the fellowship of thy sufferings. May we ever remember that we are called to do well, and to suffer for it, and take it patiently, and that this is acceptable with God; because thou, O Christ, hast also suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow in thy steps. May we then ever arm ourselves with the same mind, and live no longer the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but always live to the will of God, glorifying him in our body and our spirit, which are HIS.

Give us all grace to look forward to that day when the glory of Christ shall be revealed. May we in the prospect of that glory, whenever we are partakers of thy sufferings, be glad with exceeding joy, and commit the keeping of our souls unto thee our God, in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator; and thus may many, very many around us, be won by our good conversation.

O God of all grace, who hast called us unto thy eternal glory by Christ Jesus, make us perfect, stablish, strengthen and settle us. To thee be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

CV.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

FOR GRACE TO RECEIVE THE INSTRUCTIONS OF
CHRIST.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who, as thy days on earth came nearer to their close didst more and more abound in full instruction and labours of love, grant, we pray thee, that we also, feeling the shortness of our time in this world, may continually abound more in love towards each other and towards all men, and be sincere and without offence till the day of thy coming, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by thee to the praise and glory of God.

By thy wisdom in answering thy enemies, may we learn to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. May we see that it is worse to promise and not to perform, than to fail in promising, but afterwards to repent and obey. O hereafter may we be found among the penitent and obedient, gladly accepting thy gracious invitations, and yielding cheerful obedience to all thy holy commands.

O Lord Jesus, who hast planted with such care a vineyard amongst us Gentiles, and hast so often found us refusing to render thee the fruit in its season, at length dispose us gladly to yield unto thee, the rightful Lord, the fruit that is so justly thine own, lest we perish in our wickedness. May we henceforth be fruitful in every good word and work.

O Lord, mercifully look upon the multitudes destitute of the blessings of that glorious feast of thy love in the gospel which thou hast provided. Send forth faithful servants in increasing numbers to invite and with urgent entreaty compel men to come in, that the marriage-supper of the Lamb may be furnished with happy guests. And, O may none of us refuse the wedding garment which thou hast ready for us, but may we be clothed with thy righteousness and sanctified by thy Spirit, and be admitted at last to stand before thee.

Give us grace also here to render to all their dues, giving unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and unto God the things that are God's; and hereafter may we be found among the children of God and the children of the resurrection, who shall rise from the dead, and be counted worthy to obtain the world to come, who die no more, and are equal to the angels which are in heaven.

Hear us, O our Father, for our Redeemer's sake.

CVI.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

FOR GRACE TO KEEP THE LAW, AND FOR PRESERVATION FROM APOSTACY.

O Lord, what more couldst thou have done than thou hast done to encourage sinners to come unto thee! Thou hast declared that thou art rich unto

all that call upon thee. Thou hast promised thou wilt give good things to them that ask thee. Thou hast farther promised—unto him that hath shall be given, so that each blessing we have is an earnest that thou wilt give fuller blessings still. And yet more, as if to silence every doubt, the Son of God disdained not to become a little child, to suffer; bleed, and die for us. He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He ever liveth to make intercession for us: with boldness then would we come to thy throne of grace to obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

O our gracious Redeemer, who hast told us that the great commandment of the law is, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; and that the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself—we entreat thee to write these thy great commandments distinctly and deeply in our hearts, and grant that they may daily govern our lives.

Give unto us also a clear and distinct discernment of that great mystery of godliness, God manifest in the flesh, and a lively faith in thee, O Jesus, our Lord, as made of the seed of David after the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power, perfect God and perfect man in one Christ, our glorious and complete Redeemer.

May we ever walk humbly with thee, and desire

not the honour that comes of man, nor the praise of man, but may we find praise of thee. May our bounty be according to our means in thy sight, and not in man's. O Jesus, give us to act that thou who didst approve the widow's mite, mayest approve our gifts to the divine treasury.

O deliver us and our church, and thy Gentile churches at large, from that awful hypocrisy and wickedness which brought upon the Jews, even from thee, O thou mild and gracious but most holy Redeemer, those tremendous woes threatened in thy last public discourse. May the Gentile churches every where see that they stand only by faith, and be preserved from high-mindedness, and fear thee.

Especially may the fulfilled threatening of the destruction of Jerusalem, and its treading down by the Gentiles for so many centuries, till the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled, now in these last days deeply impress all the Gentile churches with the fearful danger of apostacy, and the vast importance of watching and praying, as we know not the time of thy coming again. O Lord, make us ready. O Lord, preserve us from saying, My Lord delayeth his coming. Give us grace to be like the wise virgins, with oil in our vessels and our lamps trimmed and our lights burning, and like the diligent servant, improving the talents given to us. Make us like the righteous, abounding in all kinds of works of love, that we may be approved of thee in that

day, enter into thy glory, and inherit thy kingdom with thy saints for ever. Amen.

CVII.

THURSDAY MORNING.

TO FOLLOW THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST, AND TO
BELIEVE IN HIM.

“Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we thank thee from the heart that thou didst not spare thy only-begotten Son, but hast delivered him up for us all, that he might bear our sins in his own body on the tree, and atone for all our guilt. We bless thee also especially that on this day he appointed for his church that blessed Supper, in which he feeds us with his holy body, and gives us his precious blood to drink. We pray thee to preserve ever in us true faith in this thy great love, and grant us thy grace that we may ever so use the holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, that it may be a mighty remedy to our souls, a strengthening of our feeble faith, and a certain comfort and defence against all the assaults of the devil, sin and death, through the same thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

O Lord Jesus, who having loved thine own which were in the world, didst love them to the end, help us evermore to confide in thee, and fill us with thy love. We bless thee, O Jesus, that knowing that the

* From Bunsen's Liturgy for the Passion Week, in German.

Father had given all things into thy hand, and that thou camest from God and wert going to God, thou didst condescend before thy last sufferings to lay aside thy garments, and gird thyself and wash the very feet of thy disciples. What love, what thanks we owe to thee for all thy humiliation of thyself for us sinners! Thou art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. O make us clean every whit from all the stains and pollutions of our sins, and while we call thee Lord and Master, give us grace to follow thy example, and to show to others the love which thou hast shown to us. May we not only know these things, but attain the higher happiness of doing them.

O Lord, guard us by the dreadful apostacy of Judas, by the temporary fall of Peter, and by the forsaking of thy other Apostles, from any falling away from thee. May we know our weakness, and our entire insufficiency of ourselves to stand; and may we keep close to thee and wholly trust in thee, and in thee alone; may we be, among our brethren, as the younger and those that serve, and not as the chief and the greatest. Give unto us true faith in thyself, and so keep us from a troubled heart. May we look to the mansions in our Father's house as our true and eternal home, and now give us abundantly thy Holy Spirit the Comforter, to strengthen us for duties here, and make us meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. Amen.

CVIII.

THURSDAY EVENING.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST.*

O holy and gracious Lord Jesus Christ, we give thee most humble and hearty thanks for the deep and anxious sorrow wherewith thy soul was afflicted for our sake, even unto death. Hereby thou hast removed from us everlasting grief and sorrow, and purchased for us eternal joy and happiness. We thank thee for thy humble falling down in Gethsemane before thy Heavenly Father, thereby to procure for us his fatherly grace and favour, and keep our faces from everlasting shame and confusion. We thank thee for thy holy prayer and obedience, wherein thou didst entirely offer up thy will to thy Father, saying, not my will but thine be done; thereby to make atonement for the evil committed by our own will, to heal its various disorders, and to sanctify us according to the will of God.

We thank thee for thy bitter agony whereby thou hast broken the power of death, subdued it, and taken away its sting. We thank thee for that dreadful sweat, which in drops of blood fell down to the ground, thereby to sanctify to us cold and anxious sweat in the hour of death, and to turn its pangs into quiet repose.

O thou innocent and unspotted Lamb of God, we

* From Ardent.

thank thee for thy being taken that we might be set free; for thy being bound that we might be released from sin; for thy being falsely accused that we might be absolved before the tribunal of God; for thy being smitten in the face that we might have peace.

O thou meek and patient Lord, we thank thee that for our sake thou hast been mocked to atone for our follies, and to become unto us eternal wisdom; that thou hast been spit upon to deliver us from shame and confusion; that thou hast been blasphemed and insulted to raise us to honour and glory; that thou hast been scourged that we might be delivered from stripes hereafter, which we have justly deserved.

O thou King and Lord of glory, we thank thee that for our sakes thou wast in derision clothed with a purple robe, to purchase for us the wedding garment of honour; thou wast crowned with thorns to gain for us a crown of righteousness; thou wast mocked with a reed put into thy hand that we might take thy kingdom and possess it for ever and ever; thy holy head was smitten that we might have the palm in our hands and wear the crown of life in thy heavenly kingdom. O may all this astonishing grace and goodness lead every one of us to compunction, godly sorrow and repentance not to be repented of. Amen.

CIX.

GOOD FRIDAY MORNING.

TO LEARN THE LESSONS TAUGHT BY CHRIST'S
PASSION.

O thou Lord of lords and King of kings, whose visage was once so marred more than any man, and thy form more than the sons of men, who gavest thy back to the smiters and thy cheeks to them that plucked off the hair, and didst not hide thy face from shame and from spitting, help us to gaze upon and admire, to realize and be filled with love and humility while we commemorate thy humiliation. Thou didst become obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, for us and for our salvation; help us then now to come near to that scene of thy sufferings, and behold thee the Lamb of God taking away the sin of the world.

Help us to view thee first in Gethsemane, where thy soul was exceeding sorrowful unto death, and hear thy repeated prayers and thy strong crying, that if possible the hour might pass from thee, and to copy thy perfect resignation to the holy will of God. In thy agony, in thy dreadful sweat of great drops of blood, help us to see the costly price of our redemption, the inexpressible evil of sin, and the unsearchable fulness of thy love. O may we, too, before our lighter trials, abound in prayer lest we enter into temptation.

In the traitor Judas coming with the band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, may we see the dreadful wickedness of the unconverted, of thy false disciples and thy open enemies, and in the vain repentance and self-destruction of Judas learn the sad end of such transgression. In the forsaking of all thy disciples, of John who lay in thy bosom, of James who said he was able to drink of thy cup, and of Peter who had so often promised never to deny thee, may we discern what *our* hearts would be in the hour of temptation, and that the only safety of any one of us is in thy keeping us, so that our faith fail not.

May we be warned by Peter's example from carnal weapons of defence, and in the darkest seasons have entire confidence in the infinite resources of thy heavenly Father, and full assurance of the fulfilment of all thy word. And may we be guarded by Peter's affecting fall, from presumption, from associating with the ungodly, and from being ashamed of thee and denying thee. O Lord, hold us up that we may be safe.

In thy open confession, O Christ, before the High Priest, may we learn to speak the truth though we have to lay down life itself for it, and not be surprised if we have to suffer for truth itself. We would view thee, O Jesus, brought before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, and there witnessing the good confession that thou art the King of the Jews,

and that thy kingdom is not of this world, but a heavenly kingdom; give us grace then to belong to that kingdom, and willingly bear to suffer for it that we may reign with thee for ever.

O deliver us from that blindness of heart which prefers a robber to him who is the desire of all nations, chief among ten thousand, and altogether lovely. O preserve us from the dreadful guilt of despising and rejecting our only Saviour, and being guilty of the body and blood of Christ.

And help us to see in thy crown of thorns the way opened for our wearing the crown of life; in thy stripes our healing; in thy wounds may we discern our transgressions, in thy bruises our iniquities, in thy chastisement our peace; thyself who knewest no sin made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in thee.

Help us to learn all the lessons taught us by thy patience and meekness. As thou, like as a lamb before its shearers is dumb, openedst not thy mouth, so grant that we when reviled may not revile again, and when suffering may not threaten, but may in patience possess our souls, and commit ourselves to thee.

Help us yet farther to view in lively faith and love unutterable, thee our Divine Redeemer hanging on the tree; thy head so full of bruises crowned with thorns, thy back wounded with stripes, thy hands and feet penetrated with iron nails, and suspended

between two thieves. O praise without ceasing be to thee who hast become a curse for us, that we might be redeemed from the curse of the law; who wast numbered with transgressors, that we might be numbered with saints, who didst shed thy precious blood and die, that all our guilt might be removed, and we might live for ever.

O Jesus, teach us all the wonderful lessons here to be learned of the dreadful evil of sin, of the sure, intense, and full love of God, of the unspeakable value of our souls, of the completeness of our salvation, and of the need of fleeing now to thee who hast thus delivered us from the wrath to come. All glory be to thee for ever.

CX.

GOOD FRIDAY EVENING.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE DEATH OF CHRIST.*

O thou, whose love has a height, and depth, and breadth, and length that pass our knowledge and are unsearchable, help us to look unto thee as the Author and Finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before thee in our salvation hast endured the cross, despising the shame.

O thou meek, kind, gracious Lord, we thank thee, who didst condescend to allow thyself to be presented to the compassion of the people by Pilate,

* From Arndt.

saying, "Behold the man,"—undergoing this, in pity and love to us, that our miserable condition might be pitied, for thy sake, by thy heavenly Father. Thou, O tender and loving Saviour, wast rejected and denied by thy people, to be made the cornerstone of the church of true believers. Thou wast sentenced unto death for our sake, to deliver us from the sentence of eternal death and damnation.

O thou most humble and righteous servant of God, thou most obedient Son of thy heavenly Father, we thank thee that thou thyself didst cheerfully bear thy cross to Golgotha, to teach us thereby that we also should take our cross willingly, and follow thee whithersoever thou goest. We thank thee for thy being nailed to the cross, thereby to be made a sacrifice for our sins. We thank thee for thy being crucified between two thieves and numbered with the transgressors; for thou hadst done no evil, nor was any guile ever found in thy mouth, yet hast thou borne the iniquity of others, to be our propitiation by thine own innocence. We thank thee for the horrid revilings and blasphemies which thou hast endured for us on the cross, to free us thereby from everlasting shame and confusion.

O thou blessed of the Lord, we thank thee for thy being made a curse on the tree, that all nations of the earth might in thee be blessed. Thou art the fairest among the children of men, the only one without sin; and yet thou becamest a worm and wast

made sin for us, that we might be made fair and acceptable unto God, even the righteousness of God in thee. Thou hast condescended to become the most despicable among men, in order to render us great and glorious. Thou didst hang on the cross without the least help or comfort, in order to purchase us everlasting joy and comfort. Thou wast stripped of thy clothing and didst hang naked and bleeding, till thou didst expire on the tree; that we might be clothed with the garment of salvation and the robe of righteousness for ever on thy throne, in thy quickly coming kingdom and glory.

O thou eternal High Priest, our only Mediator, we thank thee for thy prayer offered up on the cross in our behalf, and for the strong cries and tears poured out before thy heavenly Father. We thank thee for thy comfortable word to the penitent thief—"To-day thou shalt be with me in paradise," opening thereby the gate of paradise to us poor and penitent sinners. We thank thee for that great distress of soul which drew from thee these words—"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me," that we might have a sure comfort in our trials, that we shall not finally be forsaken of God.

We thank thee for thy holy thirst on the cross, and for thy tasting gall and vinegar; for thou hast redeemed us from eternal thirst and from the bitterness of hell. We thank thee for that comfortable word—"It is finished," that we might learn that sin

is now destroyed, God is now reconciled, the scripture fulfilled, and our eternal redemption wrought out and purchased. We thank thee for thy last words spoken on the cross, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," and for thy holy death, whereby all our sins are atoned for, life is restored to us, and all believing souls are committed in Christ into the hands of the heavenly Father.

O blessed Jesus, all that thou didst upon earth thou didst for us; thy life is ours, thy death is ours; may we die to sin, crucify the flesh with its affections, be crucified to the world and the world to us, and rise with thee to a new, holy and heavenly life here, and live with thee for ever in the glory to come.

CXI.

SATURDAY MORNING.

PRAISE FOR THE BURIAL OF CHRIST.

Almighty and everlasting God, who after thine only-begotten Son had, by his sufferings and death for us, wrought out our eternal redemption, didst please that he should enter the rest of the grave, and, like his brethren, be gathered unto his fathers after the flesh, we pray thee also grant that, by his death, our lusts may be crucified and our hearts quieted from guilt; that we too may now cease in this life from all sinful works, and, by holy quietness from

evil and confidence in thy love, be daily strengthened in thee. We beseech thee also so to assist us that when our hour of departure shall come, we may blissfully fall asleep in thee, and that our spirit may enter thy peace, while our body, in the rest of the grave, awaits the joyful resurrection unto everlasting life, through thy dear Son, our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who after blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, and taking it out of the way, and nailing it to thy cross, didst spoil principalities and powers, and make a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it, we thank thee for that wonderful deliverance of our souls from our worst enemies. We also bless thee that for our farther comfort, after giving up the ghost, thou didst descend into the grave, and abide for a season in the lower regions of the earth and the place of departed spirits, leading captivity captive. Thus thou didst sanctify the state of death to thy people, giving us full assurance that thou didst undergo all the condition of the dead. We bless thee also that thou dost reveal to us that thou hast the keys of death and hell, and art Lord of all, and that at thy name every knee must bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue shall confess that thou

* From Bunsen's Liturgy for the Passion Week, in German.

art Lord, to the glory of God the Father. All glory, praise and adoration be unto thee, who, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit, didst go and preach unto the spirits in prison. All glory, praise and adoration be to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, that thy soul was not left in hell, nor did the Holy One see corruption; and as Christ our Head was shown the path of life, rose from the dead, entered that presence where is fulness of joy, and became the first-fruits of them that slept; so, O heavenly Father, may we be delivered from the fear of death, count life ours and death ours, and follow him into life everlasting. May we willingly partake of the sufferings of the present time, that we may rise to partake with him of the glory to be revealed in us. Hear us, for his name's sake.

CXII.

SATURDAY EVENING.

FOR DELIVERANCE FROM FEAR OF DEATH, AND
CONFIDENCE IN TIME OF DARKNESS.

O Lord Jesus, our rest and our life, we thank thee, O Lamb of God, that thou hast taken away the sins of the world, and after thy death didst enter the grave and wast buried, that we might be delivered from the fear of death and the grave, and that all their sting and curse might be taken away and for ever removed from us. We bless thee that thou, by thy sufferings, rest in the grave, and resurrection,

hast won for us an everlasting Sabbath. Help us also, gracious Lord, that we may know and find thy grave to be the tomb of all our sins. May we be wholly delivered from the fear of the grave by thy burial in it, and willingly, if thou call us thereto, sleep in it as in a chamber of rest for thy saints. May we know that thou, by thy holy grave, hast consecrated and made holy all the graves of thy saints, till the glorious morning of the resurrection awaken our sleeping dust to partake of thy heavenly and everlasting kingdom. Praised be thou for ever.*

Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of thy blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continually mortifying our corrupt affections, we may be buried with him; and that, through the grave and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection, for his merits who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.†

O Lord, who didst so overrule the hatred of the chief priests that in their care to make sure the sepulchre of Jesus against his resurrection, they did but call attention to the wonderful truth and furnish the most unexceptionable witnesses to its reality,—help us in all the present triumphing of the wicked to have perfect confidence in thee. However thy

* From Bunsen's Liturgy for the Passion Week, in German.

† Collect for the day.

truth may be opposed, may we know that it must ultimately be victorious, and in the darkest seasons may we repose in thee with perfect peace. May we all be numbered among the true disciples of Christ, who, after preparing spices and ointments, rested on the Sabbath, according to thy commandment, and in their early hasting to the tomb received the assurance of the blessed fact of his being risen from the dead. So may we show all love to our Saviour and his cause in its deepest humiliation, keep all thy commandments, and at length be made joyful in resurrection-glory, through Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

Movable Feasts and Fasts.

CXIII.

ADVENT SUNDAY.**PREPARATION FOR THE JUDGMENT TO COME.**

O God, who made the world and all things that are therein, who art Lord of heaven and earth, and art now in the midst of us, for in thee we live, and move, and have our being; help us ever to remember that thou hast appointed a day in which thou wilt judge the world by that man, even Jesus our Lord, whom thou hast appointed. Give us grace in every thing so to labour, that we may be accepted of Thee in that day. O may we never lose sight of the solemn truth, that we must all stand before the judgment-seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in the body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad.

And with the judgment yet to come, help us also to realize now the grace of God which bringeth salvation; the good tidings of great joy unto all people, that there is a Saviour which is Christ the Lord. May we believe thy love, O God, in sending thine only-begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. May we rejoice in the assurance that

thou didst not send thy Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; and that he that believeth on him is not condemned.

May we all of us know the day of our visitation, the season of grace, and the accepted time. While it is called day, may we hear the voice of the Son of God and live; yet a little while the light is continued, may we walk in it. While we have the light may we believe in the light, and be the children of the light. O Jesus, thou true light of the world, enlighten our darkness, and enable us to follow thee, that we may not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

Enable us all to look unto Jesus as our great High Priest, who has entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; having by his one offering perfected for ever them that are sanctified. May we know and be assured that now once in the end of the world he has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

May every one of us with joyful confidence also believe not only that Christ was once offered to bear the sin of many; but also that unto them that look for him, he shall appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

O grant unto us grace to be thus looking for him. May we be among those expecting this blessed hope and looking for the Lord, and grant unto us all the quickening, purifying, and sanctifying power of this

hope. May it lead us to constant watchfulness and prayer, and busy occupation with our Master's talents till he come. May it lead us to sobriety and moderation in all things. May we comfort one another with this hope. May we abound in works of love. Give us thy Holy Spirit abundantly, that we may gird up the loins of our mind, and hope to the end, for the grace to be brought unto us at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

May all the means of grace also be more diligently attended to. Bless the truths which we have been hearing this day to our own souls. Bless us in viewing the Saviour's birth, fasting and temptation, his death, his resurrection, his ascension and the coming of the Holy Ghost; may we be in the Spirit, not only on the Lord's day, but through every sacred season. O bless the preaching of thy word in every place through the whole world, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

CXIV.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT.

FOR A SPIRIT OF TRUE REPENTANCE.

O exalted Prince and Saviour Jesus Christ, who knewest no sin, but wast made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in thee, we believe thy promise, that where two or three are gathered in thy name there thou art in the midst of them: and we desire, as in thy presence, to cast our-

selves at thy feet, and bless thee from the heart for all thy grace to us sinners.

For our sakes thou who wast in the form of God, madest thyself of no reputation, and tookest upon thee the form of a servant, and wast made in the likeness of men, and didst humble thyself and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross! For ever blessed be thou for all this grace to us sinners.

For our sakes, O blessed Lord, thou didst fast forty days and forty nights; thou wast tempted of Satan, and didst offer up strong crying and tears for our sakes. Thou didst go through darkness and trouble, a bitter agony and a bloody sweat, and wast numbered with the transgressors, that we might be accounted righteous! O what thanks we owe to thee for thy great redemption! We believe that thou wast wounded for our transgressions, that thou wast bruised for our iniquities, that the chastisement of our peace was upon thee, and that by thy stripes we are healed. O then may we look unto thee whom, by our sins, we have pierced, and mourn, and be in bitterness for them. Lord Jesus, may we be grieved at heart for our iniquities and rebellions against so much love; and may we mourn with that godly sorrow which works repentance unto salvation. We entreat thee, O our King and Saviour, give unto us true repentance and full remission of sins.

O holy and Almighty Father, who searchest the hearts and triest the reins, deliver us from a mere

outside formal show of repentance. Let not our fasting and humiliation be before men, to be seen of them, lest we have no reward in heaven; but let our fasting and humiliation be before thee; inward and sincere, deep and true. O Lord, give us that broken and contrite heart, that mourning for sin, that real hatred of sin, that self-loathing and self-abhorrence which thou approvest and wilt accept. May we have a new heart and a new spirit, hating every thing that is evil, and delighting in all that is good, and may we walk in newness of life.

Let the Holy Ghost really dwell in us and uphold us in thy ways; may he himself convince us of sin, and especially of the sin of unbelief and neglecting the salvation of Jesus.

And, O Lord, we beseech thee also to preserve us from a heartless indifference to appointed seasons and means of grace. Thou hast told us to submit ourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, and to submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. Help us in this spirit to improve the season appointed by our church for our soul's humiliation before thee. May we give more time to prayer, and self-examination, and reading thy word. Remembering the nature of the fast which thou hast chosen, may we loose the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, deal our bread to the hungry, bring the cast-out poor to our house, cover the naked, and not

hide ourselves from those who are our flesh. O give us grace for this and all the blessedness of this, here and for ever.

We ask the same grace and blessing for thy church and our fellow-Christians; for our country, and the whole family of man. Let not this season be abused to foster the spirit of bondage and self-righteousness on the one hand, nor neglected and disregarded in a worldly, careless spirit, but be every where made profitable by a due improvement of it, to the benefit of immortal souls, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CXV.

EASTER DAY.

MORNING PRAYER.

We will give thanks unto the Lord with our whole heart, secretly, among the faithful, and in the congregation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head-stone in the corner. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made—we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Almighty Father, who didst not leave thy Holy One to see corruption, but hast fulfilled all thy promises in raising up thy Son Jesus from the dead, no more to see corruption, and hast exalted him by thy right hand to be both Lord and Christ, all praise, all glory be to thy holy name. Though he was cru-

eified through weakness, we bless thee and magnify thy holy name that he yet lives by thy power, our glorious Redeemer, our everlasting King, our fore-runner and head, the first fruits of them that sleep, the first-begotten from the dead.

Merciful God, having raised up thy Son Jesus, send him also to bless us in turning away every one of us from our iniquities. O grant that all our souls may be quickened, forgiven, justified, and for ever blessed, through the glorious resurrection of Christ Jesus. May the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead, dwell in us, and so may we have a sure token that he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken our mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in us. May we know that he who raised up our Lord Jesus, will raise us up also by Jesus, and present us, with thy whole church, faultless before the presence of thy glory with exceeding joy.

We thank thee that he who was thus exalted by thy right hand has received of thee for us the promise of the Holy Ghost; enrich then each one of our souls with the indwelling of that divine Spirit. [Especially at thy table shed his grace abundantly upon us and all our fellow-communicants.] May we find by happy experience that it was expedient for us that Christ should suffer and die, rise again and go away from us, that the Comforter might indeed be sent down from heaven. O may he come

and dwell in us as our Teacher and our Guide, our daily upholder, strength, and sanctifier.

Give unto us all the peace and hope, joy and comfort, holiness and strength connected with the blessed fact which we this day commemorate. While the cross of Christ expels from our minds all foolish, trifling thoughts, may the resurrection of Christ deliver us from all gloomy and desponding thoughts, and give us Christian cheerfulness and holy gladness. May we know that Jesus who was delivered for our offences, was raised again for our justification, and that righteousness shall be imputed unto us, if we believe on thee who hast raised him up again. May we be assured that being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. May we know that if when we were enemies we were reconciled to thee by his death, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. May we discern distinctly that Christ is the first-fruits of them that slept, that by him has come our resurrection; and as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. And O grant to every one of us to count all things else as loss, if we may but win Christ and be found in him, know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable to his death, and so attain to the resurrection of the dead.

We pray also that our perception of our being buried with Christ in baptism and risen with him,

through faith of the operation of God, and of our quickening together with him, may be lively and experimental. May the forgiveness of all our trespasses and the blotting out of the handwriting of ordinances against us, and the nailing it to his cross, and his spoiling there of the principalities and powers of darkness, also be distinctly revealed to our souls. And thus grant that being risen with Christ we may ever seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at thy right hand; not setting our affections on things on the earth, but on things above. O that we may be dead to sin and the world, and that our life may be hid with Christ in thee; and so when Christ who is our life shall appear, we may hear his voice with joy, welcome his coming, and appear with him in glory. God Almighty grant it, for Jesus Christ's sake.

CXVI.

EVENING PRAYER.

We will give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever. He has ransomed us from the power of the grave. He has redeemed us from death, and has put into our mouths a new song of triumph. O death! where is thy sting? O grave! where is thy victory? Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

O blessed Jesus, who art the resurrection and the

life, in whom whosoever believeth, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in thee shall never die; increase our faith in this most comforting truth. Enable us with the whole heart to believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God, who hast died for us and risen again, and art now seated at the right hand of the Father, ever living as our advocate and appearing in heaven for us.

Give us grace to remember that thou, O Jesus, of the seed of David, wast raised from the dead, redeeming our nature from the grave. Herein may we discern the fulfilment of prophecy, the glorifying of God our Father, the sure foundation laid for our hope of resurrection, our security from condemnation, and the certainty of our justification by faith in thee. O Jesus, help us by thy resurrection to realize all thy mediatorial offices, as our Prophet, Priest, and King, the satisfaction of divine justice, the full propitiation made for our sins, and the sure testimony of thy divine nature as the Son of God.

O merciful Father, grant that as we are buried with Christ by baptism unto death, even as Christ was raised up from the dead by thy glory, we also may now walk in newness of life; may we be planted together both in the likeness of his death and also in the likeness of his resurrection. O may we thus be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto thee, our God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and yield our-

selves unto thee as those that are alive from the dead, and our members as instruments of righteousness unto thee. Thus by the resurrection of Jesus may we attain more and more of spiritual life and blessedness, and be ourselves raised up together with him, and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Let not then the blessed doctrine of this day be regarded by us only as a yearly commemoration of a great and all-important event; but let it be a living principle of a holy life, daily remembered by us, and daily leading us to set our affections on things above. Give us firm and unshaken confidence in it as an unquestionable fact, most certainly assured to us, by faithful witnesses, and the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, and the triumphant progress of thy gospel, and its triumph over all its enemies. Give us to believe it with the heart, and joyfully to embrace the blessed truth as the sure pledge and earnest of our own resurrection.

And O, Almighty Father, who hast done such mighty works of love for us, thy sinful and rebellious creatures, fill our souls with holy gratitude, devout admiration, and full purposes of heart to live unto him who died and rose again. Strengthen mightily hereby our faith and hope in thee. May we joyfully say with thy apostle of old, Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It

is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who is even at thy right hand, who also maketh intercession for us.

Give us thus full confidence that nothing shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. May this love ever dwell in us, and fill our whole soul with love to God and man. Strengthen us thus to fulfil our baptismal and communion vows and resolutions, and to be more than conquerors over all trials, difficulties, and temptations in life and in death, through him that loved us, till the last trumpet summon us in glorified resurrection bodies to meet the Lord in the air, and be with him for ever. Hear us for our Redeemer's sake.

CXVII.

WHITSUNDAY.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things, and blessed be his glorious name for ever, and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

We thank thee, O ascended Lord and Saviour Jesus, that, having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, thou didst so wondrously as on this day, fill thy disciples with the blessed gift, baptizing them with the Holy Ghost, and enabling them to go forth as thy ambassadors to all nations, speaking with new tongues, and proclaiming far and

wide that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.

We bless thee that thus at length the good tidings of great joy were published on our shores, and God gave testimony to the word of his grace, and we Gentiles were grafted into thy church, and became partakers of the heavenly gift; all praise, all glory be to thee.

O God, our Father, how great are our privileges! that thou shouldest thus bring us near to thyself that we might be builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit; and that we might receive the adoption of sons, and with that adoption the Spirit of thy Son into our hearts, crying Abba, Father; all glory be to thee. And yet farther, for thy promises, that if we be children then are we heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, suffering with him here that we may also be glorified together. For these inestimable mercies all adoration, thanksgiving, and praise be unto thee.

We entreat thee, merciful Father, suffer us not to receive this grace in vain. Now in the accepted time, now in the day of salvation, work in us to will and to do of thy good pleasure, that we may work out our own salvation with fear and with trembling. May we daily increase in thy manifold gifts of grace. To our Divine Redeemer thou givest not the Spirit by measure; it pleased thee that in him all fulness should dwell, and that of his fulness all we should

receive. As the Spirit of the Lord then rested upon him, so may it be imparted to every one of us, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, and make us also of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. Give unto us especially the spirit of prayer, so that we may find the Spirit helping our infirmities, and enabling us daily to pray in the Holy Ghost.

Thus, strengthened with might by thy Spirit in the inner man, may we be valiant for the truth; may we be bold in our God to speak his gospel; may we have that wisdom which comes from above, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and of good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And O, our gracious God, who hast so faithfully promised to pour out of thy Spirit upon all flesh, and yet for this wilt be inquired of by us, we entreat thee to fill our rulers, and all in authority over us, with thy Spirit, and give them an understanding heart to judge thy people, and to go in the path of thy commandments. Give unto our bishops, priests, and deacons, and all congregations committed to them, grace, mercy, and peace, and make them faithful stewards of thy mysteries, that thy word may have free course and be glorified. Speedily descend on Israel as the rain, as the latter and former rain upon the earth. Pour upon the house of David, and

upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplication, that they may look unto Jesus whom they have pierced, and mourn for him. O may they speedily become the holy people, and the righteous nation keeping the truth; and so may the Lord God cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations.

May the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts this day be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer.

CXVIII.

TRINITY SUNDAY.

MORNING PRAYER.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come, with deep reverence and abasement would we come into thy presence, through Jesus having access by one Spirit unto the Father. O help us now by faith to behold thee sitting on thy throne, high and lifted up in the heavens, while seraphim and cherubim cover their faces with their wings, and cry one to another day and night, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory. Thou art worthy to receive glory and honour and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

How graciously hast thou dealt with us! By nature born in sin and the children of wrath, we have been brought into thy household the church, and

baptized into that wonderful name of our God, the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, that we might from the beginning acquaint ourselves with God, and be at peace with him.

We bless thee, O our God, that in revealing to us thy glory, thou hast taught us that the Lord our God is one Lord, and that thou art God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. We bless thee also that thou hast discovered thyself to us, for our unspeakable comfort, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three persons and one God, fulfilling a work of grace and love for our salvation. Thanks be unto thee that we know that the Son of God is come, and has given us an understanding that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in thy Son Jesus Christ, and that this is the true God and eternal life. O may we keep ourselves from all idols.

O Lord, enable us to hold fast the profession of our faith, without wavering, seeing thou art faithful who hast promised, and may we build up ourselves on our most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keeping ourselves in the love of God, and looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Give us grace to know this deep mystery of thy divine glory, as it is set before us in thy word; not as a controversy to be disputed upon, but as revealed truth to be believed; not as a speculative doctrine,

but as a living truth, full of unction and power and blessedness; a fountain-head from which continually streams of mercy, grace, and peace are flowing. O Almighty and eternal God, grant unto us thy blessing, that thy grace, O our Lord Jesus Christ, thy love, O God our Father, and thy fellowship, O Holy Ghost the Comforter, may be with us and rest upon us, and make us a blessing to others continually.

[Especially may this knowledge of God and the Lord Jesus shine in our hearts who hope to commemorate our Saviour's death at his table.]

We beseech thee also to look in tender pity upon the millions of our fallen race without God in the world. They have indeed gods many and lords many, yet they know not thee the only true God, while they do service unto them which by nature are no gods, and offer sacrifice unto devils. But we know thee, or rather, to thy name be praise, are known of thee, and we therefore as priests unto God would intercede for a world lying in darkness, and entreat thee to cause the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, to shine upon them.

O may the heralds of salvation go forth and preach through the world Christ Jesus; and do thou who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, shine into their hearts to give the light of the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Bless the ministers of thy word every where in

preaching the faith of God's elect, and testifying the truth which is according to godliness. O may we and all the saints and faithful brethren in Christ Jesus, through the world, be filled with the knowledge of thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of thee our God, strengthened with all might, according to thy glorious power, till we be meet for the inheritance of the saints in light, and come to see thee as thou art, and to know as we are known. Hear us, for Christ's sake.

CXIX.

FIRST PRAYER.—BEFORE ORDINATION.

O blessed Jesus, who didst love thy church and give thyself for it, and who didst purchase it with thine own blood, and after this ascending to heaven didst give apostles and prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ, we beseech thee continue still to raise up from age to age faithful watchmen and stewards of thy mysteries. Multiply in our day able ministers of the New Covenant, workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, who shall be examples of believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

And especially give to the bishops and pastors of

thy flock a deep sense of the awful responsibility of appointing and ordaining those who are to serve thee in the ministry, that not laying hands suddenly on any, they may be preserved from being partakers of other men's sin. May the Holy Ghost himself separate faithful and able men for the work of the ministry, and endow them with all heavenly gifts for their blessed office. O may the unction from the Holy One descend upon them, and make them wise to win souls, so that continually there may be added to thy church such as shall be saved.

We ask this, O heavenly Father, for our Redeemer's sake, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory now and evermore. Amen.

CXX.

SECOND PRAYER.—AFTER ORDINATION.

O thou Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness nor shadow of turning, from whom is every good and every perfect gift, we earnestly unite in prayer for those ministers of thy word who have just been set apart for thy service. Give unto them heavenly wisdom, understanding in all things, the word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, working faith, patient hope, laborious love and abounding grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ, that they may preach his unsearchable riches. May they follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness, and be in all things a pattern of good

works, in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity and sincerity. Preserve them from their special temptations, and may their speech and preaching ever be, not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power; so that the faith of those who hear them may not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God, and a countless multitude may be their glory and joy in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming. O hear us for our Redeemer's sake.

CXXI.

FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR.

MORNING PRAYER.

O everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning, who from the beginning didst set the lights in the firmament of heaven to be for signs and for seasons, for days and for years, brought by thy goodness together in family worship at the beginning of another year, we would first of all, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, present unto thee unfeigned thanksgivings for all thy loving-kindnesses bestowed upon us.

When we look back on all thy dealings in the past year, what reason we have to speak good of thy name and to testify that thou art good, that thy mercy is everlasting, and that thy truth endureth to all gene-

rations. How countless thy mercies have been to us, at home and abroad, in dangers and in difficulties, in providing for all our wants, and day by day, from week to week, and month to month, giving us all things richly for enjoyment.

The same love, in deeper and fuller streams of goodness, we would see in the seasons of trials and afflictions through which we have passed. Thou hast called us in every thing to give thanks, and to glorify thee in the fires. We would then especially see thy love in trials, and praise thee for what has been humbling and painful in the past year. Thou hast taught us that by these things men live. Without these we should want the tokens of thy love and the means of fruitfulness. Help us to discern in them, not the penal judgments of a violated law, and avenging justice, but the fatherly chastisements of a tender Parent, having his mind fixed on our best good.

Help us to see the same love in our spiritual trials and conflicts. If thou hast called us to walk in darkness, in perplexity, in fear, in trembling and in temptation, and hast even given us proofs of what was in our heart in leaving us for a season to ourselves, O help us to discern in all things thy wisdom and our own nothingness. Help us to see that the trial of our faith is more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, and that all things are ours, whether the ministers of thy church, or the

world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come: all are ours, and we are Christ's and Christ is God's, and evermore then may we glory in thee alone.

May we see thy goodness and wisdom in what has been withheld, as well as in what has been given, and rise to full confidence of heart that thou art love, love in every thing.

And now in this confidence we commit unto thee all those things hidden from us in the future. True it is we know not the particular events which are before us; we know not whether those now assembled together shall at the close of this year assemble together again an unbroken circle, and be the living, the living to praise thee; but we commit all unto thee, knowing who orders all our steps, who performeth all things for us; we know he is our reconciled Father in Christ Jesus, and while humbled to the dust in the sense of our own past deep sinfulness, we cast all our care on thee, in the assurance thou carest for us. In the full conviction of the uncertainty of life and the shortness of time, that the strong may be cut off and the weak may be spared, and any of us here kneeling together may have to go through sickness and sorrow and danger, or may pass unto thy immediate presence, we would pray that thou wouldest only give us the scriptural and sweet assurance that we love thee, and are called according to thy purpose, that thou wouldest teach us the certainty of

thy word that all things shall work together for our good, and then come what may, we will delight in thy will and rejoice in thy salvation.

But, O Lord, let us rise out of the contracted sphere of personal feeling, or even the delightful circle of family and social interests, into the fulness of thine own love, who wilt have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. O pour out of the Spirit in these last days upon all flesh. Make this a year of large blessings to the whole earth. May Zion arise and shine, finding her light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon her. May thy ministers be wise to discern the signs of the times, and to instruct thy people in them. May thy church every where be prepared for the coming of the Lord, and brought to a waiting and longing for his appearance. Let the groans of creation, and its earnest expectation, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God, at length cease in thy promised kingdom; and the kingdoms of this world at length become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ, and he reign for ever and ever. Amen.

CXXII.

EVENING PRAYER.

Thy goodness, O our God, endureth yet daily; and thou, Lord, art nigh unto all them that call upon thee, to all that call upon thee in truth. Thou wilt fulfil the desire of them that fear thee, thou also wilt

hear their cry, and wilt save them. In the confidence of thy faithful promises we now call upon thee for help and grace in all the duties of that year on which we have entered, and for a full blessing upon all its various events.

Pardon, through the blood of Jesus, all our past sinfulness and unfaithfulness. Enable us all to believe in him, and receive thankfully his atonement; and being justified by faith, may we all of us have peace with thee through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And being thus reconciled ourselves unto thee, we would come before thee according to thine own direction, that first of all supplications, prayers and intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.

O God, look in tender mercy upon all our relatives and friends; where they know and love thee, increase, confirm and strengthen their faith and love. Where they are yet unconverted, O that this may be an acceptable year for their true conversion.

Regard with thy favour our President, and all those invested with authority. Preserve them from their peculiar spiritual temptations and dangers, and make them large and increasing blessings to our church and our country. Guide all in the administration of the affairs of state to such measures as will promote thy glory and the true good of this nation.

O Lord, behold us in tender pity, and spare us as a nation, though we deserve thy wrath. Let not

the rich trust in riches, but in thee. Let not the poor injure others, or take thy name in vain. May all remember the solemn account hereafter to be given, and all now seek each other's real good. O remove far away all murmuring and complaining, all hard-heartedness and selfishness, all covetousness and infidelity, and make us a righteous nation, keeping the truth.

Bless increasingly every year the many Religious Societies thou hast raised up amongst us for diffusing thy truth both at home and abroad. O Lord, strengthen the hands of all thy servants engaged in these works of love. May churches be built, may the ignorant be educated, may the Scriptures and pious books be circulated, may the wicked be reclaimed, may the gospel be preached through our country, till every corner of the land be replenished with Christian light and truth.

We ask for the same blessings on our wide and extended country. May faithful pastors of thy flock be multiplied, congregations be gathered, the means of grace be established, the blessings of the Sabbath be made known, and thy kingdom mightily grow and increase.

Prosper all efforts for the good of Zion, and especially bless the means used to revive thy church and worship among the Jews. May it be the happy beginning of the promised bright and glorious day of Zion's glory, and the blessedness of Gentile nations.

We pray for full success to all missionary labours among the heathen. Wherever thy missionaries have gone forth preaching Christ to those that know him not, O Lord, bless their labours. Gather in speedily thine elect; take out of the Gentiles a people to thy name, and then return and build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen, that the residue of men may seek after the Lord, and the whole earth be filled with thy glory.

O Lord, we entreat thee, pour out thy Spirit from on high, and let the wilderness become a fruitful field, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose. May thy purposes of mercy be in this year largely ripened and accomplished, and may we have the joy of seeing the kingdom of darkness diminishing and falling, and the kingdom of light and truth, of love and joy, of holiness and peace, making rapid advances in every part of the world.

Hear us, for our Redeemer's sake.

CXXIII.

FIRST LORD'S DAY IN THE YEAR.

MORNING PRAYER.

O Lord God, who hast made heaven and earth by thy great power and stretched-out arm; who didst rest from all thy works on the seventh day, and bless it, and sanctify it; the great, the mighty God, the Lord of hosts is thy name. Great in counsel, and mighty in work, thine eyes are open upon all the sons of men to give every one according to his ways, and ac-

according to the fruit of his doings: we worship, on this thy holy Sabbath, thee our God, our own God, because thou art the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O Lord, it is thy day, the first Sabbath of another month, the first Sabbath of another year: we raise then to thee our grateful thanksgiving, for the blessings without number which we as a family enjoy, and for all thy goodness which encompasses us about on every side. Not, O Lord, that we are better than others; O help us deeply to feel and bewail our great sinfulness in thy sight, both as a family together and each in his own soul. The light of thy mercies may indeed fully manifest to us our great inconsistencies, our deep ingratitude, and the vileness of all our offences. But to sovereign grace and free love we owe every thing. Thou wilt have compassion on whom thou wilt have compassion, and mercy on whom thou wilt have mercy; and, therefore, we are spared and blessed. Thou hast made us to differ, and we will glory in thee alone.

O Lord of all mercy and goodness, grant that this Sabbath may be to us a commencement of Sabbaths more holy, more profitable, and more happy in communion with thee, than any which we have hitherto passed upon earth. May the talents which thou hast intrusted to us, whether time, or property, or influence, or strength, or abilities, be far more than ever heretofore traded with, or laid out, for thy honour,

and glory, and the good of others. Whatever our talents be, whether many or few, or only one, still may we each diligently occupy them till our Lord shall return. May every gift of thy Spirit bestowed upon us, be in this year more beneficially employed in thy service, remembering that the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

O Lord, grant that in this year we may all of us be made fuller and richer blessings to each other, and to all around us. May none of us fail of thy design of love in bringing us together, and near to each other, that we may be fountains of light and comfort, of help and happiness to each other. O let us never be a grievance and burden, but a constant spring of joy and gladness to all about us.

May this year be favoured with special revivals of grace in our family, in our congregations, in our church, in our country, and in all the churches of Christ. O may thy people grow rapidly, in these last days, in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. May our faith be more lively and laborious, our hope more patient and abounding, our love more fervent and unwearied this year, than it has ever yet been.

Let the folly of those who, in their voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intrude into things which they have not seen, vainly puffed up in their fleshly mind, and not holding the head, become more and more manifest, and let them proceed no farther.

Rebuke the unclean spirits now abroad. Bring to nothing all designs for the spread of infidelity, popery, and lawlessness, so that those seduced may be ashamed and converted. Let all these devices of the enemy only advance the kingdom of Christ, ripen the knowledge, mature the graces, and enlarge the numbers of thy people.

O let thy church awake and arise from the dust; let her take unto her her beautiful clothing, her robes of righteousness, her garments of salvation, and her ornaments of a meek and quiet spirit. May thy people every where be raised up together, and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ; having their conversation in heaven, and their affections set on things above. Thus may thy church look forth as the morning, fair as the sun, clear as the moon and terrible as an army with banners.

And O come and bless us in thine house and ordinances this day. Begin this first Sabbath, O our God, with overflowing grace and love to each of our souls, through Jesus Christ our only Saviour.

CXXIV.

EVENING PRAYER.

How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O Lord; therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings; they shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house, and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. From

the heart we thank thee for the fresh privileges of this first Sabbath of another year, and for the quickening calls of thy providence, and of thy word, to devote ourselves afresh to thee.

We have indeed hitherto been too much like barren trees, planted in a fertile vineyard, but bearing no fruit, and cumbering the ground; but thou graciously, in the riches of thy goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, hast spared us for another year, and still continuest to us the care of thy providence, the means of thy grace, and the strivings of thy Spirit. O Lord, grant that this long-suffering may be for our salvation; that this goodness may lead us to repentance. O that we may at length be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. May each of us receive such aid from thy Holy Spirit, that we may give all diligence to add to our faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance, to temperance patience, to patience godliness, to godliness brotherly-kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity, and so make our calling and election sure.

O Lord, our souls do indeed cleave to the dust. They ought to soar upwards, and live as in thy presence; but we find by sad and humbling experience, that they are perpetually grovelling here below, filled with the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things: quicken thou us according to thy word. If any of us are yet dead in

sins, O God, who art rich in mercy to all them that call upon thee, quicken us and make us new creatures in Christ Jesus. Are any of us cold and dull in spiritual things, we entreat thee renew a right spirit within us: quicken us according to thy command to love thee with all our heart and mind and soul and strength; quicken us according to the sureness and fulness of thy promises, and never leave us nor forsake us till we rise from the life of faith and love here to the enjoyment of eternal life in thy heavenly kingdom.

O Lord, we trust that thou hast put into all our hearts at this season some fresh desires to live more unto thee, some new purposes of walking more closely with God, and more watchfully resisting the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, that thou hast led us to form some good designs and plans for the year now before us. O strengthen us with might by thine own Spirit to bring these desires and purposes to some good effect.

We earnestly entreat thee to grant thy grace that our prayers may be more spiritual and fervent, more full and constant: that our searching the Scriptures may be more persevering and deep, more devout and practical; that our public and social worship may be in spirit and in truth; less formal and more earnest and fervent. We ask that our intercourse with each other may be less trifling and vain and empty, and more full of thee and of those things which belong

to our everlasting peace, so that we may ever be seeking to please each other to our mutual edification. May we be growing up into Christ in all things. Whether sickness or health, pain or ease, joy or sorrow, weakness or strength, may all be accomplishing thy gracious designs of love for our growth in grace, and our being weaned from the world. In our slightest affliction may we not lose sight of our sin, as justly requiring it, and in our heaviest trials may we discern the strength and fulness of thy love in sending them.

O Lord Jesus Christ, dwell in us and give us thy Spirit, that we may ever abide in thee, and so be really fruitful. Remove not the candlestick from our church and from our land. May we as a nation prize our inestimable religious privileges; repent of all our evil ways; be watchful and strengthen the things that remain which are ready to die, and so be spared and blessed, and made a full blessing to all other nations, to Jews and Gentiles in every land, through Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

CXXV.

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25.

MORNING PRAYER.

O our merciful Father, we thy sinful and rebellious children bow before thee in grateful adoration, to thank thee for that astonishing love, manifested as on this day, above eighteen hundred years since,

in sending Jesus Christ in our nature to save us sinners. O what love was this that thy only-begotten Son, being in the very form of God, should not disdain the virgin's womb, should take upon him the form of a servant and be made in the likeness of man. We bless thee, we praise thee, we glorify thee, for those good tidings of great joy that there was born unto us, as on this day, a Saviour, even Christ the Lord.

May we, with full confiding faith, humble adoration, and unfeigned gratitude, and intense love, consider this great mystery, God manifest in the flesh; and behold the glory of Jesus, as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, till Christ be formed in us the hope of glory. May we behold as in a glass the glory of the Lord, till we be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord.

O give unto us a cheerful, holy, spiritual and edifying improvement of this sacred season. May we rejoice in thy goodness, be filled with thy praise, diffuse thy love, and be a blessing to all around us.

May thy house be crowded with willing, glad, and devout worshippers, and believing, and obedient hearers of thy truth. Open to thy ministers the great mystery this day commemorated, that they may fully declare the wonders of redeeming love to thy churches. [Bless those of us especially who hope to go to thy holy table, and there to obtain in

the breaking of bread, the communion of the body of Christ, and in the cup of blessing the communion of the blood of Christ. May we find a double blessing in commemorating the Saviour's death on the day of his birth, receive Christ into our hearts, evermore to dwell there, and daily through his Spirit mortify and crucify the lusts of the flesh.]

Bless all thy churches through the earth, in the commemoration of this wonderful and all-surprising mystery of love. O Lord, pardon all the great profanation of this sacred season, which has so long dishonoured thy name. O let it not be desecrated by mere carnal mirth and worldly pleasure. May we never lose sight of all the awful guilt of man which required this humiliation of the Son of God, and of the holiness and purity to which He has redeemed us at such a costly sacrifice. May we never act inconsistently with the great and mysterious truths of His incarnation this day celebrated.

May thy Holy Spirit be largely granted, through the incarnate Redeemer, not only to us now as a family kneeling together, but to all the members and branches, kindred and connexion of our several families. May family love and union and all the ties of kindred, never decrease or diminish amongst us, but enlarge and be strengthened, till time be swallowed up in eternity.

Bless all lands with the light of thy glorious gospel. May Christ, the light of the Gentiles, speedily

shine over all the world; may Christ, the long-expected glory of thy people Israel, at length in all his majesty and love be revealed to thy waiting people.

O Lord, we thank thee not only for the great miracle of thy love in the incarnation of our Lord and Saviour, but for the farther miracle of his being born in many a sinner's heart from age to age, even to this day. O still help thy church. Thou knowest how great are its dangers, how strong are the pillars of the kingdom of darkness, and how mighty the Prince of the power of the air, who now worketh in the children of disobedience; but, O thou who art stronger than he, be in us, and prevail within us over all our foes, and hasten the full triumph of thy church in thine own kingdom, for thy name's sake.

CXXVI.

EVENING PRAYER.

Thanks, eternal thanks be unto thee, O Father, for that blessed truth which we have this day commemorated, that the Eternal Word, who was in the beginning and was with God and was God, was made flesh and dwelt among us. All glory be unto thee, that unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government is upon his shoulder, and his name is called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

O help us, Lord, to ponder these things in our hearts as Mary did, and to adore thee more and more, and to admire the wondrous fact that God sent his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem us, and give us the adoption of sons. May we live as becomes those brought nigh unto thee, in so glorious a relation that Jesus, thy own Son, is not ashamed to call us brethren. May we realize the certainty, the fulness, the freeness and the glory of that salvation which Jesus, by his incarnation, accomplished.

Enable us also not only to look at all that Jesus in our nature did for us on earth, but to look upward and see that same nature carried into the heavens, and that same Jesus now appearing in the presence of God for us. May we by faith now see him at the right hand of God, ever living to make intercession for us. May we know that he can enter into all the feelings, distresses, sorrows, wants, and desires of humanity, and into all our temptations, being touched with the feeling of our infirmities, having been tempted in all things like as we are, sin only excepted. May we be assured then of his sympathy, his compassion, and the tenderness of his fellow-feeling towards the children of men, and gladly commit our cause and interests and our immortal souls to him who was born, and lived, and died for us, and be constrained by his love to devote ourselves to him.

We beseech thee also now to give us grace not only to look at the birth, and life, and death of Jesus here below, and at his present seat at thy right hand, and his interceding there for us, but also to look forward to the quickly approaching period when the same Jesus shall return again to our earth in like manner as he ascended from it. When his feet shall once more stand upon Mount Olivet, no longer in his lowly form of a servant and a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, no more for suffering and sacrifice, but crowned with glory and honour, coming in the glory of the Father with all his holy angels, King of kings and Lord of lords, to overthrow all his enemies and to reign for ever and ever. For that coming in glory make us truly prepared and ready; may we be looking for it and expecting it. May we have on all the armour of light. May we be manifestly the children of the light and the children of the day. May our conversation be in heaven and our affections set on things above, that looking for Jesus from heaven, he may change our vile body and fashion it like unto his glorious body, according to the working of his mighty power.

Write upon our minds the truths which have been brought before us this day. Let not our faith fail in the time of trial. Teach us to keep judgment and to do justice, knowing that thy salvation is near to come and thy righteousness to be revealed. O may we seek heavenly and not earthly treasure, and may

our loins be girt, and our lights burning, and our souls waiting and watching for thy appearing, O blessed Jesus, to whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory now and evermore.

CXXVII.

THE LAST LORD'S DAY OF THE YEAR.

MORNING PRAYER.

O ever-living God, which is, which was, which is to come, before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. O Lord, thou shalt endure for ever, and thy remembrance unto all generations, and blessed be the Lord our God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ from everlasting to everlasting.

O Lord, we thy frail creatures, whose life is as a vapour, whose years pass away as a tale that is told, who dwell in houses of clay whose foundation is in the dust, and who are crushed before the moth, fly to thee the eternal God as our refuge. O support and sustain us by thine everlasting arms, and give unto us eternal life in Christ Jesus our Saviour.

We now confess unto thee the innumerable sins of the past year, all our Sabbath iniquities, and the iniquities of our whole lives. O Lord, how can we look back without being ashamed and confounded for our own ways. We desire now to remember before thee our evil ways and our doings that were

not good, and to loathe ourselves in our own sight for our iniquities and for our abominations. Enable us to look back on all the way thou hast led us these many years in this wilderness-world, to humble us, and prove us, and teach us what is in our own hearts. O Lord, we find more and more that our hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, and that all evil proceeds out of them, and there is no good thing in them.

Create then in us a clean heart, O God; renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. May we learn in all our sinfulness and weakness, corruption and depravity, more of the grace and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we learn wholly to renounce all hopes in any righteousness of our own, and to boast only in thee, all the day long, and to praise thy name for ever and ever. May we see that all our righteousness and strength is in the Lord, and that his grace is all-sufficient for us.

And while earthly Sabbaths are passing away, and we lose one after another; may our souls in them, and through them, be ripened for keeping that eternal Sabbath which thou hast promised to thy people. May even our most humbling experience of our corruption, through the mighty energy of thy Spirit, in overcoming evil with good, and bringing good out of evil, produce in us poverty of spirit, contrition for sin, strong faith, ardent love and more en-

tire devotedness to our divine Redeemer. Thus may our infirmities themselves magnify thy power and grace, and all things work together to make us vessels of mercy meet for the Master's use.

Nor let this last Sabbath of the year pass without a gracious revival and refreshing from thy presence, and fresh, and more fixed, and more successful purposes of heart to walk in newness of life; and to give up ourselves, and all we are and have wholly to thee.

We ask for the same blessing for all our brethren in the Lord, in our own congregation, and in all the churches of Christ through the wide world. O let thy gracious purposes of love and all thy long-suffering and forbearance with the sinful sons of men, save multitudes from perishing, and bring multitudes to repentance, that countless numbers of immortal souls may be saved in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CXXVIII.

EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord our God who hast made the Sabbath for man, and given it to be a sign between us and thee, that we might know that thou art the Lord our God who sanctifieth us, we bless thee for all the vast mercies and privileges of our Christian Sabbaths, during the past year. We thank thee for all the instruction received in them, for all thy holy ordinances, the

light of thy word, the preaching of thy ministers, and the abundant means of grace which we have enjoyed. Thou hast greatly exalted us in religious privileges and spiritual advantages. Mighty works thou hast done for us in this favoured country, and we bless together, and we magnify together thy loving-kindness.

But, Lord, we mournfully acknowledge that we have not rendered again unto thee according to thy goodness. We have as a nation greatly abused thy kindness, and misused our many advantages, and profaned thy day and thy name. We have as a family walked unworthy of our high calling, and have been too much like the unfruitful tree, barren year after year, and only cumbering the ground. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Lord, vouchsafe unto us in the review of the past, a far more lively gratitude for all the proofs and tokens of thy goodness towards us, and a far more humble and penitent and contrite heart under the deep sense of our own inconsistency, unfruitfulness, and unworthy returns unto thee. Give us full purposes of heart to cleave more closely unto the Lord our God, hereafter; to honour and sanctify the Sabbath more, and to give it up more strictly and entirely to its sacred duties.

Impress upon our minds, O gracious God, the lessons of this day; the shortness of time, the near-

ness of judgment to come, the unspeakable importance of thy favour, the inestimable value of our never-dying souls, and the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, so that we may count all but loss to win Christ and to be found in him. O let us not seek earthly treasure, but strive to gain heavenly riches. Let us not call evil good, and good evil; but do thou purge our understanding, and give us to see that thy will is altogether good, and teach us to delight in doing it.

To thee we commit all that is now before us another year. How little can we discern what is coming to pass! but help us to confide in thee, and to see that every sorrow, sickness, and trial is guided by infinite wisdom and love. O may the fruit of all thy providential dealing be abundant in righteousness and joyful conformity to thy will.

Bless every member of this household. We thank thee for the love which from eternity provided so many temporal and spiritual comforts for us: for the ties of Christian affection, and the bonds of holy love which unite us as one family here below; and for the blessed hope of being eternally united in thy kingdom of glory, near at hand and yet to come.

Bless the people of this place. Let not thy preached word return unto thee void. Bless all the secret meditations, and the social intercourse of thy people here. May the poor be rich in faith, and the

rich abound in good works, and all be united together in pure and holy love.

Bless us more than ever thou hast yet done, according to the fulness of thy love in the approaching year. Assist us in duty, preserve us from temptation, guard us from danger. May we walk in the fear of the Lord, and yet more may the love of the Lord constrain us, that we may render a delightful service to thee, and find it perfect freedom. Honour us with large usefulness here, preservation in the hour of temptation, and full joy in the day of Christ. All these great things we ask of thee, for the worthiness of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

CXXIX.

LAST DAY OF THE YEAR.

MORNING PRAYER.

O ever-living God, the eternal and unchangeable Jehovah, the great I AM, which is, and was, and is to come, whose years fail not, we the children of a day, formed of the dust, whose flesh is as grass, and all our goodness as the flower of the field, soon fading and passing away, come unto thee, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting on them that fear thee. We come in the name of one who bears our form and is partaker of our nature, while he is also one with thee, equal with God, even Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

O Lord, when we look back on the year now

closing, how great has been thy goodness to us, how patient thy forbearance with us, how wonderful thy grace toward us. Mercies have surrounded us from day to day, from week to week, from month to month, from the beginning to the end. Mercies at home and mercies abroad, mercies in journeying and mercies in resting, mercies in our own family and with relatives and friends. We have been preserved amidst dangers, we have been kept from evils which we merited, and even in our deepest trials we have experienced the most abounding goodness and love. We are still encompassed with blessings, the living, the living to praise thee as we do this day. We together unite in making a fresh memorial, in this our family worship, of thy loving-kindness, and say from the heart, Hitherto the Lord has helped us.

May so much goodness lead us to repentance. Most unworthy have been our returns, innumerable have been our short-comings: our resolutions have been broken, our vows unperformed, and every thing we have done has been short of thy pure and perfect law, and mingled with multiplied imperfections and defects. We have not lived as a holy priesthood, dedicated to thee and continually offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to thee by Jesus Christ, but we have lived to ourselves, and cannot come unto thee or stand before thee but as we have access by Jesus our Mediator.

O teach us the great lessons which thy goodness

and our sinfulness should at this season especially impress on our minds. May all the way we have been led humble us, and may it show us to ourselves. May it teach us what evil there is in us, and may we discern how sinful and vile we are in ourselves, and how abominable we truly are, through our sin in thy sight, so that we may loathe and abhor ourselves. O give us that humble and contrite spirit with which the High and Holy One that inhabits eternity will dwell, and in which he delights. Teach us all the emptiness of this vain world, and the folly of seeking our rest in that which is so polluted, and may we arise and depart from all its lusts and sins, and seek our rest only in the Lord, and patiently wait for him. Be thou our shield and our exceeding great reward now and evermore. Be thou our joy and strength, the portion of our inheritance and of our cup, and do thou maintain our lot.

Grant the same blessings to all the dear circle of relatives, and friends, and neighbours whom we would especially at this season remember. O let not these more lengthened and marked periods of time and providence pass away, without more earnest prayer, more determined purposes of living to thee, a more plentiful effusion of thy Holy Spirit, and an enlarged and full revival of thy work of grace in all our hearts.

And as our salvation is continually nearer and nearer, and we see the day of the Lord approaches,

may thy church every where make ready for his coming; may thy people be like the wise virgins, and have oil in their vessels, and be watchful. O may we have our loins girt and our lights burning, so as to be all ready to welcome our returning Lord and Saviour. Hear us for his name's sake.

CXXX.

EVENING PRAYER.

O our God, thy years are throughout all generations. Of old thou hast laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee. May we be numbered with them, and partakers of the favour thou showest to them.

Amidst all the changing scenes and passing seasons of this transient world, may our hearts be fixed on things heavenly and eternal, and may we seek first the kingdom of God and thy righteousness.

In coming before thee at the close of this year, we desire gratefully to acknowledge thy loving-kindness to us in all that is past, and to mourn before thee our many and grievous sins. O Lord, if we can see so much evil in our ways, who can but little discern the exceeding sinfulness of sin; what

must our iniquities be when set before thee, and when our secret sins are set in the light of thy countenance? Our mouths must be for ever stopped; we confess that we are all guilty before thee, and justly condemned by thy holy law.

We come then now in this solemn season, weary and burdened with sin, to Jesus, that Lamb of God which thou hast appointed to take away the sin of the world. We cast our burden now upon thee, O Lord; do thou sustain us. Yea, do thou cast all our sins behind thy back, that they may be remembered no more against us.

O Lord, we do thank thee from the heart for the rich, full, and free grace of the gospel of our Lord Jesus; so suited to all our wants as needy, sinful, and perishing creatures. What a Saviour we have, whose blood cleanses from all sin, in whom we have righteousness and eternal life, whose Spirit aids us and strengthens us in all our weakness; who is gracious and full of compassion, touched with a feeling of our infirmities, tender and forbearing! O what a Father is our God, who pities us as his own children, and whose goodness leads us to repentance! Though we cannot glory in ourselves, we would glory always in the Lord; though we must be humbled in the true view of ourselves, we do exult in him and magnify his name for all things; for all the mercies, yes, and for all the trials, of the year now closing.

O Lord, teach us now so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Satisfy

us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad in thee all our days. May we henceforth redeem the time, and in the midst of evil days busily occupy with our talents till the Lord come.

O gracious and merciful Father, we acknowledge thy kind providence which has been constantly at work all through our past lives to bring about those exact circumstances by which we are now encompassed, with lessons of humbling experience and with blessings and mercies on every side. May we then have more confidence in thee for the coming year, and more warm-hearted, fervent and supreme love to thee. We cannot indeed tell what a year or what a day may bring forth; but thou our best friend, our God and our Father, knowest all from the beginning to the end. O may we then have perfect peace and repose in thy care and love.

And may thy Spirit inspire in us holy resolutions and firm purposes of walking in newness of life. Revive thy work in the midst of the days in our hearts, in our church, in our country, and in all the churches of Christ. As we approach nearer the day of Christ, may thy people be more and more longing and prepared for his appearance. Every where may this solemn season speak with a powerful and quickening voice to all men, and rouse the careless and awaken the slumbering, and lead us all to Jesus, our only and complete Saviour, for fresh life and strength in thy ways. Hear us, for his name's sake.

Occasional Seasons.

CXXXI.

PRAYER BEFORE BAPTISM OF A CHILD.

O Lord, our God and Saviour, to whom all power in heaven and earth is given, who didst command thy apostles to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, according to the direction of thy word and thine own gracious invitation, to suffer little children to come unto thee, for of such is the kingdom of heaven—we would bring our child to thy holy baptism. O Lord, give thou thy blessing with the means of thine own appointment. Baptize our child with the Holy Ghost. Give both the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. May we have the full comfort of knowing that our child is holy and dedicated to thee, and give us grace to bring up this child as the Lord's, and in thy nurture and admonition.

We farther beseech thee to make this a time of

spiritual blessing to our whole household. Let all be now reminded of their baptismal vows, and may each member of our family be brought into the mystical body of thy church, that the name, which was named upon us in our baptism, may be no mere outward form, but a reality felt and enjoyed in our souls. May the name of the Father be to us a seal of adoption,—the name of the Son a seal of his living image in our hearts,—the name of the Holy Ghost a seal of his indwelling grace and power, and may we ever be living in the hope of thy glory. Hear us, for our Redeemer's sake. Amen.

CXXXII.

PRAYER AFTER BAPTISM.

Thanks be unto thee, O our Father, for the many precious promises thou hast given in thy word, to those that are baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and admitted by covenant into thy church. May we rely upon thy faithfulness; and in dependence upon thy loving-kindness, bring up, in our family, this child now baptized in thy name, for thee in every thing. May we believe thy precious promises to us and to our children. May we view this child as a member of Christ, a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven, and as such may we train up our child day by day, in faith and prayer, in the way in which [he] should go, in full assurance that when [he] is old, [he] will not depart from it.

O strengthen our resolutions, and give us thy grace to carry them patiently and steadily into effect, not spoiling our children by over-indulgence, not giving way to unholy tempers with them; not misleading them by a bad example; but daily teaching them thy truths, leading them on in the ways of Christ, restraining and checking all that is wrong, and encouraging every thing that is good. Give thy full blessing to our efforts, that there may not only be in this child another member added to our family, but another member trained up in the household of faith, for a heavenly and eternal home, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CXXXIII.

BEFORE CONFIRMATION.

We especially commend unto thee those young persons connected with our family and our neighbourhood, who are now about to be confirmed. O Lord, give them thy Holy Spirit abundantly; make them thoughtful, serious and earnest, in renewing their solemn baptismal promise and vow. May they be truly upright and sincere before thee. May it be a time to be much remembered for thy grace imparted to them; giving them firm decision in thy ways and entire yielding up of themselves to thy service; so that hereafter they may never fall back, or be ashamed to confess thy name. Through Jesus our Redeemer.

CXXXIV.

AFTER CONFIRMATION.

We bless thee, O our God, for the grace given to those young persons connected with us and our neighbourhood, who have been confirmed. O put thy fear into their hearts, that they may never depart from thee. May they, with full purpose of heart, cleave unto thee, O Lord, and do thou thyself keep them by thy power, through faith, unto the salvation ready to be revealed. O our God, may they cleanse their way amidst the many temptations which will try them, by taking heed to thy word. Remembering that thy vows are now upon them, may they take heed to perform them, and may they be strong in thy strength and more than conquerors through him that loved us. Hear us, for our Redeemer's sake.

CXXXV.

BEFORE COMMUNION.

(On any day in the week previously.)

O gracious Redeemer, who in thy tender love to us, the same night in which thou wast betrayed, didst take both bread and wine, and give them to thy disciples, as showing thine own body broken for us and thine own blood shed for us, and for many, for the remission of sins, and didst command that this should

be done in remembrance of thee, we bless thy holy name for this gracious appointment, and for its continued observance to this day. O Lord, may those of us who hope to go on the next Sabbath to thy table, be assisted by thy grace in giving time to self-examination and prayer. Do thou impart to us a lively feeling of our own sinfulness and unprofitableness and a simple dependence on thy merits. Do thou give us to hunger for the bread of life. Do thou enable us to discern thy body and to feed on thy flesh in our hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving. O prepare us, by thy grace, that we may with a true penitent heart and lively faith, receive that holy sacrament, so that we may spiritually eat thy flesh and drink thy blood; that we may dwell in thee and thou in us, and that we may be one with Christ and Christ with us. Grant us these inestimable benefits, for thy great name's sake.

CXXXVI.

AFTER COMMUNION.

(To be added to the other prayers.)

O Lord our God and Saviour, who hast admitted some of us, unworthy and sinful as we are, to that heavenly feast of love in which we feed on Christ the true bread of life, keep alive in our hearts a lively remembrance of so great a token and pledge of thy favour and goodness towards us. May we ever keep in mind with what we have had commu-

nion, even the body and blood of Christ, and that we are united to the people of the Lord as one bread and one body. May we therefore come out from the world, and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to thy glory. May we give no offence or cause of stumbling to any one, but please all men in all things, not seeking our own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. May we especially love the brotherhood, and feel our union and oneness with all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Hear us, for his sake. Amen.

CXXXVII.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

BEFORE COMMUNION.

Our heavenly Father, in whose house there is bread enough and to spare, receive us thy sinful children, returning unto thee in the name of Jesus Christ. O give unto us the spirit of prayer, and show us our weakness and wants and sinfulness, and thy power and riches and willingness to assist us, and let the Holy Spirit himself help our infirmities, that we may offer unto thee acceptable worship.

Thou hast appointed this holy day for thine own service; write thy gracious law in our hearts, and enable us to lay aside all worldly thoughts and cares,

and without coldness and distraction to wait upon thee all the day in a spiritual and heavenly mind, and with all fervent and holy affections.

Our divine Redeemer having called us in his church to celebrate this day the memorial of his death, we entreat thee to look with thy special grace upon those of us who hope to go to his holy table. O heavenly Father, we bless thee that thou hast indeed commended thy love to us in sending thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins, that we might live through him. In not sparing him, we thank thee thou hast assured us thou wilt freely give us all things, and that he who died for us must be full of love to us. Enable us by this love to discern our sinfulness and perverseness, our vile ingratitude and base returns unto thee; and in the spirit of deep contrition and true repentance, as well as in the spirit of filial confidence and holy love, to go to this holy communion. We beseech thee to enable us to discern, by faith, the Lord's body given and broken for us, and his blood shed for us. O may our souls be raised, by the Holy Ghost dwelling in us, to that true and saving faith which this ordinance is so especially designed to aid us in attaining. May we discern Christ as the bread that came down from heaven, which gives life unto the world. O Lord Jesus, may we come to thee for this bread, that we may never hunger, and believe on thee, that we may never thirst. O may we eat thy flesh and drink thy

blood, and so have eternal life and be raised up at the last day. And may the eating of this bread and the drinking of this cup, be an effectual means of thy grace to give us this communion of thy body and thy blood. O heavenly Father, may Christ crucified be set forth among us evidently before our eyes. May he manifest himself to our souls in the breaking of bread, so that we may have a lively, quickening, soul-affecting and reviving view of his death for us, and true fellowship with his sufferings. May we also know the power of his resurrection, and that he is now seated at thy right hand; and by faith may we behold our risen Saviour appearing in heaven in thy presence for us, as the Lamb slain in the midst of the throne, and as the true High Priest of his people, ever living to make intercession for us. Give us also, by the Lord's supper, to gain a full assurance of his return in thy glory. Seeing that as oft as we eat this bread and drink this cup we show forth his death till he come, may each ordinance show us the passing away of the days of darkness and the quick return of our heavenly Lord. May we be helped by this solemn memorial to be found watching, praying, and allready for his coming.

We farther ask of thee a great increase of love, both to our Lord Jesus Christ and to each other. May we see that we, being many, are one bread and one body, for we are all partakers of that one bread; and so may love to each other be enkindled and

greatly quickened and strengthened. May we sympathize more with each others' wants and joys, and by our love to the brethren know that we belong to the household of faith.

Strengthen us hereby also for all the sacrifices, self-denial, labours, firmness, love, patience, forbearance, and persevering zeal of the Christian life, that having partaken of this heavenly food, we may go to all our duties refreshed and invigorated for all our appointed work.

We pray for a full blessing on the ministers appointed over us and all thy people, and on all the congregations that gather together in thy name. May great grace be upon them all, and the Lord Jesus be magnified this day in the conversion and edification of a countless multitude who shall be his in the day when he makes up his jewels. Hear us for his name's sake.

CXXXVIII.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

AFTER COMMUNION.

O thou that dwellest in the highest heavens, before whom the heavenly hosts are worshipping, and with devout adoration crying out, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing: we too would join our feeble praises to them. We would now

unite with them, saying, Thou art worthy to receive all blessing and honour and glory, for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation: all glory be to thee.

O Lord, we thank thee that thou hast not this day dealt with us as we deserved, and that thou hast passed over, through our great High Priest, the iniquity of our holy things. We praise thee for the good hope in Jesus, that our services, imperfect as they are, are accepted of thee, and that the prayers which we have offered up shall be answered.

O give unto us all the good things which we have been this day asking of thee, accept the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which has been offered in thy house and at thy table, and write upon our hearts the truths of thy holy word which we have this day heard.

Give especially the full blessing of thy holy communion to those of us who have been to the holy table of the Lord. May we abide in Christ more entirely, and may he dwell in our hearts by faith, and may we be rooted and grounded in love. May the spirit of this holy communion remain with us. May our repentance be made more deep and intense; may the dying love of Christ be brought out before us in more vivid and impressive colours; may we feel that our weary and heavy-laden souls, approaching to him, shall find true rest, and that he is the sure

and full propitiation for all our sins. Give us more of his Spirit, of ardent, forbearing, self-sacrificing, costly, laborious, humble and persevering love,—a love not of words only, but of deeds; a love ready for toil and pain and suffering, and yet free and cheerful, even to the unworthy and ungrateful. Feeling this love of Jesus to us, may we join in spirit the angelic song, and sing, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will towards men.

O Lord, seeing thou art our God by covenant engagements and immutable promises, and thou art ever near to us and present with us, grant us grace ever to seek thy face, and to walk with thee, to live as in thy sight, and to do thy will.

And as solemn communion-vows now rest upon such of us as have been to thy table, may we remember that it would have been better not to have vowed, than, having vowed, not to perform. May we neither repent of the vows nor be slack in the performance of them. Assist us hereafter to go through all our daily duties under the constraining influence of thy love.

And bless all our fellow-communicants at thy table and our fellow-worshippers in thy house, and prosper thy word wherever it has this day been preached, to the conversion, healing, sanctifying and strengthening of multitudes of precious souls, and to the glory of thy great name.

O when shall the day arrive when all the ends

of the world shall remember the Saviour's sufferings and turn to thee, and all the kindreds of the nations worship before thee, and know that the kingdom is the Lord's, and he is the governor among the nations. Hasten the happy time, for our Redeemer's sake.

CXXXIX.

BEFORE COMMUNION ON THE LORD'S DAY.

(To be added to the usual Family Prayer.)

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

O Lord our God, who hast told us that the cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ, and that the bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ, and who hast called us by a solemn command to do this in remembrance of thee, we beseech thee to give a special blessing to those members of our family who hope this day to partake of the Lord's supper. O may Christ manifest himself to us there, as he does not to the world. May we find of a truth that he receiveth sinners and eateth with them. May we have joy and peace in him, which the world can neither give nor take away, and may this joy be our strength. We entreat thee to grant that this thine ordinance this day may be very quickening and reviving to our souls; may our corruptions be mortified by the death of Christ, and may all Christian

graces be imparted and increased, while remembering his dying love at his table. O hear us, for his name's sake.

CXL.

MARRIAGE IN A FAMILY.

O thou blessed Saviour, who didst work thy first miracle at a marriage, and hast declared in thy word, that marriage is honourable in all, and hast set it before us as signifying the great mystery of the union between thee and thy church, we earnestly unite in prayer together for a blessing,—that full blessing from the Lord, which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow with it,—on this marriage in our family. God Almighty grant to both thy servants all temporal and spiritual good, and let this be a union full of spiritual advantage and mutual comfort and edification. May the husband love his wife, as Christ loved the church; may the wife submit to the husband as unto the Lord, and may fresh and full views of all the oneness, grace and loving-kindness there is betwixt Christ and his people, be continually thus opened to them, and daily may they become more and more like him. O hear us, for our Redeemer's sake,

CXLI.

THANKSGIVING AFTER CHILD-BIRTH.

Blessed be the Lord, who has inclined his ear to us and heard the voice of our prayer. Gracious is the Lord and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. As a family, we render unfeigned thanksgiving unto thee for thy tender mercy in carrying her, at the head of this family, safely through the trying hour of child-birth, and for sparing and preserving both mother and infant. O how great is thy goodness; how multiplied are thy mercies day by day. We would, in the sorrows of bringing forth children, learn our fallen state and the evil of sin, and in deliverance from those sorrows and the joy of a living child born into the world, we would see thy goodness. We desire also to be led by this birth to remember that Child who is born and that Son who is given, through whom cometh salvation, not only from temporal danger but from eternal ruin, if we continue in faith, and charity, and holiness, with sobriety. O Lord, may we pay our vows unto thee in the presence of all thy people, and may thy mercies constrain us to present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto thee, which is our reasonable service, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CXLII.

BURIAL OF A MEMBER OF A FAMILY.

The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, help us, O our God, to say from the heart—The will of the Lord be done, blessed be the name of the Lord. We thank thee that Jesus himself, by weeping at the grave of Lazarus, has sanctified tears of sorrow. We thank thee that Jesus himself, by praying “If it be possible, let this cup pass from me,” has sanctified desires for the removal of our sorrows; but give us, like him, also to say from the heart, The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? not my will, but thine be done. Preserve us then, we beseech thee, from all murmuring and repining thoughts; enable us to glorify thee in this great trial. May patience have its perfect work in us at this time. May we discern why this affliction has visited our family, and each be humbled for his own sins in thy sight. May we have entire confidence in thy wisdom and love, and be assured that all shall work for good, and may all thy design in this affliction be accomplished in each of us, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CXLIII.

PUBLIC FAST-DAY.

O Lord, who hast given such plain commands, for thy people in times of national chastisement, to sanc-

tify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts; we desire grace of thee to join with our whole hearts in the humiliation of this day. We beseech thee to grant that we may turn unto thee with all our heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning, and rend our hearts, and turn unto thee, the Lord, who art gracious and merciful, and slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest of the evil.

O Lord, we acknowledge our deep national sinfulness as justly causing thy righteous displeasure. We have been full of pride and high-mindedness, boasting and vain-glory, covetousness and earthly-mindedness, neglectful of the poor, and murmuring against the rich, lovers of the world and lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, and therefore these evils have come upon us. O may we break off our sins by righteousness, and our iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, if it may be the healing of our disorders and the lengthening of our tranquillity.

O Lord, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish thou the just. O give us not up on account of our sins, as thou didst Israel of old and the churches in those lands now overspread with Mahommedanism, Popery and Infidelity, but turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine

upon us, and we shall be saved. O may we now at thy reproof turn to thee, and do thou pour out thy Spirit upon us and make known thy words to us, and so iniquity shall not be our ruin.

May the appointed services of this day be observed by us and all thy people with deep seriousness and earnestness. O let none seek pleasure in the day of our fast, or exact all our labours, or fast for strife or debate, or with outward show only of humiliation. Give us grace to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to bid the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke. May we deal our bread to the hungry, care for the poor, cover the naked, and not hide ourselves from the destitute. O grant that we may nationally and generally repent us of all our sins, and turn to thee, the Lord our God, and find, by happy experience, that while sin is a reproach to any people, righteousness does truly exalt a nation. Send thus a gracious rain of thy heavenly grace upon thy inheritance, and refresh the weary land with the showers of thy blessing, through Jesus our only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

CXLIV.

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING DAY.

We desire, O our God, to join with the general voice of our country this day in giving praises to the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the

Lord from this time forth for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name is to be praised. The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Who is like unto thee, the Lord our God, who dwellest on high and humblest thyself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth, and raisest the poor out of the dust.

We would, in the congregations of thy people, this day join with our fellow-worshippers with our whole hearts in blessing the most high God, who liveth for ever, and whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and thy kingdom is from generation to generation.

Thou hast heard our supplication; we were brought low through affliction and sorrow; we cried unto the Lord in our trouble, and he saved us out of our distresses. He sent his word and healed us, and delivered us from our destruction. O that we and all men may praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.

Lord, increase our faith and confidence in thee. Enlarge our hearts in prayer to thee. May thy loving-kindness lead us to far more universal acknowledgment of thy hand in every thing, and to entire devotedness as a nation to thy service. O let not thy long-suffering be despised, but be our salvation. Grant that it may not be true of us, that when favour is shown to the wicked, yet will he

not learn uprightness. May thy forgiving love lead us to fear thee. May thy goodness lead us to repentance.

May we not only honour thee by offering thee praise, but in ordering our conversation aright may we be shown the salvation of our God. O that there were such a heart in us, to fear thee, and keep thy commandments always, that it might be well with us and with our children after us. Now unto the one living and true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be all honour, praise, and glory now and evermore. Amen.

Family Providential Seasons.

CXLV.

REMOVING TO A NEW RESIDENCE.

O Lord, our God, without whose blessing no changes can be a real blessing, who hast determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of our habitation; we look unto thee to prosper this change in our dwelling-place to the spiritual as well as the temporal good of our family. We humble ourselves before thee for all our past sins, and thank thee for the many mercies received hitherto in the place of our abode; give us true repentance for the past, and grant that with a new abode we may put away all our idols, begin a new life, and still more abundantly partake of thy grace and goodness. May God be honoured in our family abode; may the Spirit be poured upon us, and our household be a Christian household, and our family thine from the very beginning; so may we dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in a sure dwelling and in a quiet resting-place.

Above all be thou, O Lord, our dwelling-place in all generations, and our strong habitation whereunto we may continually resort, in health, in sickness, in life, in death, in judgment, and through eternity, for our Redeemer's sake.

CXLVI.

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY ABOUT TO JOURNEY.

Bless, O Lord, especially, we pray thee, [those members] of our family about to leave home, for the journey which is now before [them.] May the designed end of the journey be accomplished. May [they] be a blessing wherever [they] go, and bring [them] back in peace if it be thy will, at the appointed time, to our beloved home. O how many are the mercies for which we have here to praise thee, and we would receive them as coming only from thy hand, and as earnest and pledges of higher blessings yet to come, in our Father's house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

CXLVII.

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY ABSENT.

We commit unto thee those members [that member] of our family now absent from us. Be with them [him or her] watch over, guide, guard, and bless them. Let no evil happen to body or to soul. May prayer for each other still bring us together daily

before thee. May all the designed benefits of the absence be fully realized, and may we meet in peace again to praise together thy loving-kindness.

CXLVIII.

THANKSGIVING ON THE RETURN HOME OF THOSE ABSENT.

- We bless thee, O our God, for thy great goodness in re-assembling us once more around the throne of thy grace in family worship, and for all thy protecting care, and thy many providential mercies to those who have been journeying as well as to those who have remained at home. The Lord has been our keeper; he has preserved our going out and our coming in, and he shall preserve us from all evil. May we live to his praise and continually be greater helps and blessings to each other.

CXLIX.

BEFORE THE VISIT OF A FRIEND.

Bless, Lord, all who come under our roof; bless the friend whom we this day expect; may we both gain and impart spiritual benefits during his [her] visit; may we be honoured to assist each other in the way to heaven; and may our intercourse be holy and edifying, such as we shall look back upon with pleasure in thy heavenly kingdom. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

CL.

BIRTH-DAY IN A FAMILY.

We bless thee, O our God, for another year added to the years of one of our beloved family, and we earnestly pray together that this birth-day may be a season of special grace and spiritual blessedness; in an humbling and grateful recollection of that which is past, and in fresh purposes in thy strength to give the remaining portion of our time here below, more unreservedly to thy service. O that the great end of life, thy glory in our own salvation, and an abundant sowing of seed for a future harvest of eternal blessedness, may be more and more accomplished in us all.

CLI.

A SERVANT'S LEAVING THE FAMILY.

We commit unto thee that servant of our family about to leave us this day, humbling ourselves before thee for any thing wrong in thy sight, in our past relations to each other, in us, or in [her,] thanking thee for any benefits received or communicated, and beseeching to guard [her] and us from all spiritual danger in these changes, to bless them to our soul's welfare, and to grant that we may be increasing blessings to all around us.

CLII.

A SERVANT'S COMING INTO THE FAMILY.

We desire to welcome into our household another member of our family, entreating thee, who hast appointed the various stations of life, for grace to fulfil the several duties of our stations to thy glory. May the master rule as knowing that he has a Master in heaven, with whom is no respect of persons, and ever giving that which is just and equal; and the servants labour, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but with good-will doing service from the heart, as unto the Lord and not unto men, knowing that of the Lord they shall receive the reward of the inheritance.

CLIII.

FOR DIRECTION IN CHOOSING A SERVANT.

O Lord, who dost direct all things that concern thy people for their good, we beseech thee send to us a suitable and faithful servant for our family, who shall be a help and comfort to the whole household, and both do good and get good under our roof. Feeling our own darkness, and ignorance, and danger of being deceived, we ask of thee guidance and direction in this as in every thing connected with the welfare of our family.

CLIV.

IN TIME OF SICKNESS IN A FAMILY.

O thou who art the only true God, the God who lives for ever, who alone kills and makes alive, who wounds and heals, and there is no God beside thee, we desire now especially to look to thee in behalf of that member [those members] of our family now suffering from sickness. Often have we had to praise thee for unmingled mercies of health and comfort and for an overflowing cup of goodness: we would see and acknowledge the same hand of love in the present affliction, and looking at the many mercies mingled with it, say from the heart, Blessed be the name of the Lord. Graciously sanctify it to us all. Let thy design of love in it be accomplished. May we now feel that if one member suffer, all the members suffer with it. In tender sympathy we would then pray for the recovery of the sick, and so beseech thee to grant that when one member is comforted all the members may rejoice, for Jesus' sake.

CLV.

IN TIME OF AFFLICTION.

O our God, the Father of our spirits, who never chastenest us but for our profit, help us to believe that whom thou lovest thou chastenest, and scourgest all the sons whom thou dost receive. May we lift up, then, the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and by full confidence in thy wisdom and

goodness, and having entire love to thee, may we make straight paths for our feet, that that which is lame may be healed. May we return unto the Lord, for he hath torn and he will heal us; he hath smitten and he will bind us up. He will revive us and raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

O that the holy directions and gracious promises of thy word may be written in our hearts; and do thou make us so strong in faith that they may have a living, sustaining, abiding and comforting power in the midst of every trial and affliction here below. Hear us, for our Redeemer's sake.

CLVI.

THANKSGIVING ON RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us bless his holy name, who forgives all our iniquities, who heals all our diseases, who redeems our life from destruction, and who crowns us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. Especially we render our grateful thanksgivings unto thee at this time for the recovery of that member of our family who has been sick. It is thy goodness to which we owe this recovery. It is through thy mercy that this sickness has not been unto death. Let all thy goodness herein be ever gratefully remembered by us. May our faith be strengthened, our hope in thee be confirmed, and our love be increased; and may we all, with more devoted hearts, henceforth live unto thy praise, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CLVII.

THANKSGIVING FOR DELIVERANCE FROM
AFFLICTION.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. We found trouble and sorrow, we called upon the name of the Lord, and he helped us; may our souls therefore return unto their true rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with us; and may we walk before him with a believing, loving and devoted heart all the days of our life. We will bless the Lord from this time forth and for evermore.

CLVIII.

FOR A SICK CHILD.

Blessed Jesus, who when the nobleman's son was sick at Capernaum and at the point of death, didst hear his prayer and speak the life-giving words—Thy Son liveth; who didst also heal the only child of one for whom thy disciples could do nothing, and didst answer the believing and persevering prayer of the woman of Canaan for her daughter; we beseech thee look upon us in our present affliction, and if it be thy holy will, remove the present sickness, and recover and raise up our dear child, that we may together praise and bless thee, our only Lord and Saviour; but give us grace to resign all we are or have unto thee, and say from the heart, in every thing, The will of the Lord be done.

CLIX.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE RECOVERY OF A CHILD.

What thanks can we render unto thee, O God our Saviour, for this thy mercy to our beloved child; when [he] was sick, nigh unto death, thou hadst mercy on [him,] and not on [him] only, but on us also, lest we should have sorrow upon sorrow. All glory be to thy holy name; may this sickness be to thy glory, and yield peaceable fruits of righteousness, in us who have been exercised thereby.

CLX.

FOR A SERVANT IN THE FAMILY WHEN SICK.

O blessed Lord and Master Jesus Christ, who when the centurion came unto thee for his sick servant, didst immediately answer, I will come and heal him, we call upon thee for our sick servant, entreating thee to heal him [or her.] Thou hast all power in heaven and earth, speak thou the word only and our servant shall be healed, our faith strengthened, and our souls have fresh cause to bless thy saving name.

CLXI.

THANKSGIVING FOR A SERVANT RESTORED TO HEALTH.

O Lord, we bless thee for thy goodness in restoring our servant to health again. O that, like the healed Samaritan leper, we may ever glorify thee in giving

thanks for thy mercies, and be strengthened thereby to walk in thy ways with gladness and increased faith and love. Give our restored servant grace to walk before thee henceforth in a grateful sense of thy mercy and in true holiness and righteousness of life.

CLXII.

IN TIME OF GENERAL SICKNESS.

Unto thee, Lord, we commit all the circumstances of this day; not a sparrow falleth to the ground without thy knowledge. Unto thee, in the midst of the general and dangerous sickness which, for our sinfulness, thou hast sent at this time, we commit sickness and health, for they are thy servants. O may all the uncertainties and dangers, changes and deaths of this troubled scene lead us to thyself, wean us from this world, and preserve us from fixing our hopes here. May we look forward to that land, where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, but perfect holiness, peace and love. Give us a more constant hope of thy glory, that we may be raised above the darkness of this lower world, the cares, doubts and anxieties of this mortal life, and the gloom of sin and unbelief. May we view this life merely as a time of preparation for that blessedness. May thy love be our stay, our guide, and our support, in the time of need, the hour of death, the day of judgment, and through the countless ages of eternity.

CLXIII.

PRAYER IN PROSPECT OF TRIALS.

O Lord, we commit unto thee all our hopes and fears in the prospect of what is before us. What time we are afraid, we will trust in thee. Do thou enable us to wait only on thee, and to pour out our hearts unto thee, and not to be afraid of evil tidings. Do thou give unto us a fixed heart, stayed on thee, and trusting in thee, and so to possess perfect peace. And at length may we have, in the happy issue of our present fears, fresh and abundant cause to speak good of thy name, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CLXIV.

PERPLEXITIES AND TROUBLES.

O Lord Jesus Christ, whose blessed apostle Paul was troubled on every side, perplexed, but not in despair, cast down, but not destroyed, and who hast told us that we too, through much tribulation, must enter the kingdom of heaven, we implore thy guidance and direction in our present difficulties; give us singleness of eye, that our whole body may be full of light; may we, above all, attend to the one thing needful. Strengthen our confidence in thee, direct our paths in thy ways. May we find now that though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day, and may we hereafter abundantly and joyfully discover that our light afflic-

tion, which is but for a moment, has wrought out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Hear us, for thy name's sake.

CLXV.

HEAVY CALAMITIES.

O Lord, we call upon thee who hast so graciously encouraged us to seek thee in trouble, saying, Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Thou art our only refuge, and a very present help in time of trouble. We beseech thee then to succour us at this time. Give us faith; give us patience, give us grace to glorify thee, and honour thy name by full confidence in thee, and entire un murmuring submission to thy holy will. O grant that this affliction may not harden us, or make us despair. May we neither despise it, nor faint under it. May we see in it tokens for our best good. May it work patience, experience and hope, and when thy purpose of love is thereby wrought in us, beyond all our hopes, may the dark clouds hanging over us be scattered, and the bright light of thy love cheer and refresh our souls, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CLXVI.

DEATH IN A FAMILY.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who art the resurrection and the life, who didst thyself weep over the dead, and wert full of compassion towards the weeping widow

of Nain, and who dost truly sympathize with us in all our griefs and sorrows, of whom may we seek for succour but of thee, O Lord. Though by our sins we have justly displeased thee, and death is the wages of sin, yet blessed be thy name, we are called upon to look to thee as the conqueror of sin, and death, and the grave; and we believe that the saying shall yet be fulfilled, Death is swallowed up in victory.

But, O Lord, be with us at this time, and greatly sanctify to us all, this removal of one from the midst of us. May the solemn lessons taught by it be deeply and abidingly impressed on our hearts. O may we see what a vapour our life is. O may we turn to thee with our whole hearts, in true repentance and in lively faith. Let no repining or murmuring dishonour our Christian profession. May we confide in thee for all that is to come, ourselves consider our latter end, and be prepared to meet our God in that day when our spirit shall return to him. Hear us for thy name's sake.

CLXVII.

WHEN THE DEATH HAS BEEN TRULY CHRISTIAN.

What thanks we owe to thee also for the happy departure in the Lord of our beloved friend, and that we have so joyful a hope that death was great gain, and that our departed [brother] is now with Christ, which is far better. O Lord, may so blessed an end quicken us to full confidence in Jesus, and entire devotedness to his service.

CLXVIII.

TIME OF RIOTS AND INSUBORDINATION.

O Lord God of our Fathers, art not thou God in heaven, and rulest not thou over all, and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? Thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. Thine eyes are upon the ways of man, and thou seest all his goings. There is no darkness nor shadow of death where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves from thee. Do thou give quietness, and none can make trouble. Do thou, who stillest the noise of the waves, still the tumult of the people. Break thou the power of the ungodly and malicious. Make the wrath of man to praise thee, and the remainder of wrath do thou restrain. And in the midst of all outward disquietude may we and all thy people be able to testify, He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty, and shall say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in him will I trust. Grant also that all this shaking of earthly things may lead us more gladly and fully to receive that kingdom which cannot be moved, and to serve thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CLXIX.

FOR RAIN.

O thou who, when the heaven is shut up and there is no rain, because we have sinned against thee, hast taught us in thy word to pray unto thee, acknowledge thy hand, and turn from our sins, and thou wilt hear us,—we acknowledge our sinfulness, and come unto thee. We beseech thee now to visit the earth, and to water it with the showers from above, that we may receive the fruits of it in due season, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CLXX.

FOR FAIR WEATHER.

O Lord, we have justly deserved immoderate rain, and to be deprived thereby of the fruits of the earth; but it is thy faithful covenant, of which the bow in the cloud is to us a sure token, that there shall not any more be a flood to destroy the earth, and that while the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease. The eyes of all wait upon thee; give them their meat in due season, and may we learn righteousness by thy chastisements, and thankfulness by thy mercies, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CLXXI.

THANKS FOR RAIN.

O thou that waterest the hills from thy chambers, and the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works

we bless thee for sending this gracious rain upon thine inheritance, and refreshing it when it was weary, that thou mayest bring forth food out of the earth, and bread to strengthen us. Descend also upon us and upon all thy churches, as rain upon the mown grass, and make us fruitful in every good word and work, for Jesus Christ's sake.

CLXXII.

THANKS FOR FAIR WEATHER.

O thou who art as the light of the morning when the sun rises, even as a morning without clouds, as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain, we thank thee and give thee praise for this seasonable and blessed change of weather. O may we ever praise the Lord for his goodness, and give unto him the honour due unto his name. Shine into our hearts, and make us joyful in thee all our days, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CLXXIII.

IN WINTER.

We bless thee, O Lord, for the abundant provision which thou hast made for all our wants; that while others at this inclement season are almost without food to eat, clothes to cover them, or fire to warm them, we have all we need. O give us thankful hearts for our own mercies, and feeling hearts for the wants of others. Look, Lord, in pity on a world made

more desert and desolate by sin than the earth by the snows and severity of winter; upon men more barren and unfruitful than the ground that is hardened by the ice and frost. O may they learn to fear thee, and so may the glorious Sun of Righteousness rise upon them with healing in his wings. Hear us for his name's sake.

CLXXIV.

IN SUMMER AND HARVEST.

O thou good and gracious God, who openest thy hands and fillest all things living with plenteousness, we praise thee that according to thy gracious promise while the earth remains, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night does not cease. Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. Thou visitest the earth and waterest it. Thou preparest them corn. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness and thy paths drop fatness. The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season. And if we have to thank thee for this provision for our bodies, how much more have we to thank thee for the feast which thou hast provided in the gospel for all our spiritual necessities, and for the Sun of Righteousness, warming, healing, and cheering us, and maturing our souls, we trust, for the heavenly harvest. Lord, grant that we may be continually ripening, till, like as a shock of corn comes in its season, we are gathered to our heavenly home. Hear us for Christ's sake.

CLXXV.

VACANCY OF A BISHOPRIC.

O Lord, mercifully dispose the minds of all to whom thou hast given power and authority to appoint another bishop in our church, to call to that high and responsible office, a faithful, and wise, and devoted minister of thy word, who shall be a full blessing to our church and country.

CLXXVI.

CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION.

Graciously, O our God, do thou call to places of authority and power in the state able men who fear thee and hate covetousness, and who like Joseph and Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah, shall use the power intrusted to them for the prosperity of thy church, the good of our country, the maintenance of true religion and the glory of thy great name.

CLXXVII.

VACANCY IN THE MINISTER.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who holdest the stars in thy right hand, and appointest to each their station to serve thee; we earnestly beseech thee to send a faithful steward of thy mysteries to rule over us, and watch for our souls; a pastor after thine heart to feed us with knowledge and understanding. We deserve not so great a blessing, but thou hast received gifts for us, and we entreat thee to bestow this good gift upon us.

CLXXVIII.

PRAYER TO BE USED BY SOLDIERS.

O Lord God of Hosts, King of kings, and governor of all things, thou alone givest victory unto kings in the day of battle, and makest war to cease in all the earth.

Bless, O Lord, this day, the work of our hands; yea, prosper thou our handiwork.

May we, as good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ, first be faithful to him, the Captain of our salvation, and follow him for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, who bringeth many sons to glory, and was made perfect through suffering. May we, as directed in thy word, do violence to no man, nor accuse any falsely, and be content with our allowance; may we be devout and fear thee, and pray to thee always; may we fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life.

May no unjust aggressions, no worldly ambition, ever bring thy curse upon our armies or our nation. Thus may thy blessing rest upon us in every cause of righteousness; and do thou go before our armies, thou God of battles, as thou didst before thy chosen people of old. May our soldiers ever fight for truth, and righteousness, and peace. Make them brave, and merciful, and temperate; faithful to their favoured country, and obedient to the commands of their heavenly King. Give peace in our time, O Lord;

but if our soldiers are sent forth to war, let them be armed with the shield and buckler, which thou alone, O God, canst give; and fill them with a sure trust in thy providence. Take thou, at all times, their cause into thy hand, O thou that judgest right; and be their defence against the face of their enemy. Grant unto them, and all of us, such a measure of thy grace as may enable us to withstand all the enemies of thy salvation, and manfully so to fight, under the banner of the great Captain of our salvation, that finally we may be received into the rest and peace of the eternal and heavenly kingdom, through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

CLXXIX.

PRAYER TO BE USED BY SAILORS.

O Lord Jesus Christ, God over all, blessed for ever, who didst become man for us, and didst show thy divine power over the sea, by walking upon its waves, and stilling, at thy command, all its tumult; we bless thee that thou hast thus taught us thy power to help and to save us, and hast shown thy care for those who go in ships on the deep. Help us ever to feel that thou art near to us, our Saviour and our friend. Help us to know that thou art not only a deliverer from the dangers of the sea, but also a Saviour from the far more fearful dangers of sin; that thou canst not only still the storms raging over the deep, but also calm the more serious tempest of evil passions

and raging lusts within our hearts and in the world. O Lord Jesus, who hast redeemed us from all iniquity, purify us unto thyself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Wherever we go, whatever place we visit, may we ever act as becomes thy true and faithful disciples. May we never be ashamed of thy gospel. May we confess thy name and spread thy praises, and at length may we be restored to our own home and country, without having, by our sins, dishonoured thy name, or brought reproach on thy gospel. O heavenly Father, hear us for our Redeemer's sake.

Family Intercessions.

CLXXX.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD.

We beseech thee, O Lord, to send thy blessing on thy whole church now militant here upon earth, and exposed to innumerable snares and temptations, dangers and enemies. We praise thee for the thousands and tens of thousands who have in all ages been gathered unto thee, for the thousands now walking in thy heavenly ways; but O let the coming years before the advent of our Lord be years of special and enlarged blessing. May multitudes be brought into thy fold. May the last days of thy church be her best days, and bounteous floods of blessing be poured upon her from on high. Bless especially our own beloved land, and every inmate of it. May plenteous streams of grace descend upon us, from that pure and living fountain, which flows from the throne of God. Accomplish, Lord, the restoration of Israel; fulfil the promises so long delayed, let the waste places of Judah rejoice and be glad; and O hasten that which is the consummation of all things, the return of our blessed Lord. May we be found waiting and watching for him; may our lamps never grow dim, nor our loins be ungirt, our faith never fail, nor our love grow

cold, nor our lamp go out in darkness, till the sound be echoed from the songs of angels and archangels, Behold the Bridegroom cometh, and then may we all, without one exception, enter in with him to the marriage, for his name's sake.

CLXXXI.

FOR ALL THE MINISTERS OF CHRIST.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the chief Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, who when thou didst ascend on high, and lead captivity captive, didst give gifts to men, some apostles, some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ, we beseech thee graciously to look upon the bishops and pastors of thy flock, and upon all whom thou dost call to minister thy gospel and feed thy church, and pour upon them thy abundant blessing.

O Lord, greatly enrich them with spiritual gifts and endowments, according to thy infinite fulness and the multiplied wants of thy church. Raise up sons of thunder to awaken the careless; sons of consolation to comfort the mourner; eloquent men to convince mightily the ignorant; good men full of the Holy Ghost, that much people may be added to the Lord; faithful men like Timothy, naturally caring for the state of their people; and devout men like Ephraim, always labouring fervently for them in prayer.

According to thy inexhaustible fulness supply all the wants of thy people in every place, that thy unsearchable riches may be fully made known.

And O Lord, uphold thy ministers, and strengthen them that their faith fail not. Make them wise to win souls. Endue their words with heavenly power; may they be like fire, burning away the dross, and like the dew, strengthening, reviving and refreshing the hearts of thy people. Send them help from thy sanctuary, and strengthen them out of Sion, so that thy word may have free course and be glorified in all the earth. Hear us, for thy name's sake.

CLXXXII.

FOR PROTESTANT AND REFORMED CHURCHES.

O Lord Jesus Christ, we thank thee for thy special grace and loving-kindness to thy church in past days. When corruption and apostacy, and the worship of saints and idols, of gold and silver and brass and stone and wood, which neither can see nor hear nor walk, had overspread thy whole visible church, how graciously at that time didst thou in thy tender mercy appear for thy people; and we bless thee, O Lord, for so plenteously pouring out thy Spirit upon thy servants, and raising up the blessed Reformers to hold forth the light of thy truth. All glory be to thy holy name, for that remarkable revival of the gospel of the grace of God, and for the establishment of churches holding thy truth in its purity throughout Christendom.

But we have to acknowledge before thee how soon thy truth became again obscured, and its progress was hindered, by the multiplied divisions and strifes of thy sinful creatures. We have to confess that multitudes in the Protestant and Reformed churches have but a name to live while they are dead, and their works are not found perfect before thee our God.

O Lord, give thy churches grace to be watchful, and to strengthen the things that remain and are ready to die. O Lord, help them to remember how they have received and heard, and to hold fast and repent. May our own church be especially thus assisted and blessed of thee. May a new and enlarged spirit of union be given to all thy churches and people, holding thee the Head. May multitudes come wholly out of Babylon, and be delivered from her plagues. May the Jews be speedily grafted in again, and thus be as life from the dead to the world. O hear us, for thy name's sake.

CLXXXIII.

PRAYER FOR UNITY AMONG CHRISTIANS.

O thou good and gracious Father, who art in the Son, our Lord Jesus, and He in thee, in union inexpressibly entire and complete, and who wouldest have all thy people one in the Father and the Son, we entreat thee to take away all things that prevent and hinder this perfect union. Every where grant grace to thy children to be like-minded, having the

same love; being of one accord and of one mind. Remove all schisms and divisions, jealousies and debates, strifes and contentions. Let us not judge our brother, let us not set him at naught, but let us rather judge this, that no man put a stumbling-block, or any occasion to fall, in his brother's way. Give us that most excellent gift of love which suffers long and is kind, envies not, is not puffed up, covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things; seeks not its own, is not easily provoked, and thinks no evil; rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth.. Give unto us a right judgment in all things; so increase our knowledge of divine truth, that we may be more and more joined together as one man, in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. Give us to be subject to one another in the fear of God, and to be clothed with humility. O may all the churches of Christ holding the Head, notwithstanding mere outward differences, so far as they have already attained, walk by the same rule, mind the same thing; be of one heart and of one soul; speak the truth in love, and grow up into him in all things which is the Head, even Christ. Grace be with all them that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Do thou at length bring in the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and thus may there be one fold under one Shepherd, even Jesus our Redeemer,

CLXXXIV.

PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY.

We bless thee, O Lord, for the mercies shown unto our favoured land. Make us, as we ought to be, grateful for the blessings which we enjoy as its citizens; and O grant that our past deliverances may be earnest of future mercies. Visit not upon us the open wickedness and blasphemy which has place in our borders; preserve us from all dangers without, and from the still greater dangers that threaten us within. Bless those in authority; pour upon them such a measure of thy grace that they may be made a blessing to the people committed to their charge. Give unto us as a nation, that faith which overcometh all things; so that, serving God and working righteousness, we may be a joy and praise in the whole earth. Make thy people more powerful intercessors both for our church and country, that even from this land thousands and tens of thousands may join the hosts of thy redeemed, and every corner of our land be an altar from whence the sweet incense of praise shall arise unto thee. For thine own name's sake. Amen.

CLXXXV.

FOR CONGRESS.

Bless the meeting of Congress to the great advantage and welfare of our country. Direct, control, and prosper all their deliberations for the best good

of this land. Assist the administration to bring forward healing and beneficial measures, and may they be perfected for the welfare of all. May our country be a light among the nations, holding forth the word of life. Turn from us all those judgments which our sins have most righteously deserved, and may all our wealth, power and commerce be used to promote thy glory. May we fear none but thee, seek to please none but thee; and pleasing thee alone, look to thee alone for protection, to thee alone for greatness; and always render to thee the honour and glory due to thy great name, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CLXXXVI.

FOR OUR GREAT CITIES.*

Almighty God, the King of nations, who hast raised up great cities until thou hast made their merchants princes and their traffickers the honourable of the earth, and hast brought them low again because they have sinned and not honoured thee with their substance; grant that we, being admonished by their example, may not likewise perish. Thou hast clothed our fields with plenty, and prospered our commerce; O let not our hearts be lifted up within us, nor pride obtain dominion over us; but so increase our faith in thy directing providence, that we may give all the

* Altered from a prayer used at the laying of the corner-stone of the new Royal Exchange by Prince Albert, Jan. 17, 1842.

glory of our prosperity to thee, who orderest all things according to the pleasure of thy will.

May we as a nation be deeply humbled before thee, on account of the wickedness of the people, the luxury and pride, and dissipation of the higher classes, the profligacy and open wickedness of the lower, the fearful neglect of thy worship and service among all classes, and the want of provision for the religious instruction of the poor. We mourn before thee for the abominations done in the midst of us, and entreat thee to spare us and to give us true repentance. In this our day of grace incline all our hearts to trust in the Lord Jesus alone, and to live to his glory.

May our merchants, regarding themselves as stewards of thy bounties, be ever guided in their acquisition of wealth by thy holy law, conducting their dealings with strict integrity, and never going beyond or defrauding one another. And in their expenditure of honourable gains, may they labour to farther the spread of thy kingdom upon earth and the well-being and salvation of their fellow-men. Hear and answer this our prayer, most gracious God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLXXXVII.

FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN ARDUOUS DUTIES.

O Lord, we bless thee that thou hast united thy people as one body, so that if one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; and if one member be

honoured, all the members rejoice with it. O thou who thus hast taught us ever to sympathize with each other and to seek the good of the whole body, we desire to commit unto thee our beloved brethren, whom thou art calling to great and arduous duties in thy church, in withstanding the adversaries of thy truth, and upholding works of righteousness and mercy. May they be bold in the strength of God. May they be steadfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in thy work. Uphold them with thy free Spirit. Teach them to be strong in faith; give them the wisdom that cometh from above, and enable them to discern things that differ, to prove all things, and hold fast that which is good. Give them holy decision, patient and persevering zeal, and all the meekness and gentleness of Christ. May love to thee and to all men be the soul-quickenings motive of their labours, and finally crown them with success beyond their largest hopes and expectations, that they and we and all thy people may triumph in thy loving-kindness to thy church, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CLXXXVIII.

PRAYER FOR BENEFACTORS.

We desire, O our God, our great benefactor and friend, to thank thee for the kindness and favours which we receive from our fellow-men, and we earnestly pray thee to return them abundantly into their own bosoms all their love shown to us. May they

prosper and be in health, and especially may their souls prosper; and may the design of their kindness be fully answered in our grateful and happy enjoyment of thy goodness to us.

CLXXXIX.

FOR THE AGED.

O Lord, we commend to thee our aged friends whom thou hast so long graciously spared to us. Support, strengthen and comfort them in all their infirmities and the weaknesses of old age. May they be partakers of thy special favour, and may it be true of them, that a hoary head, found in the way of righteousness, is a crown of glory. When they descend to the grave, may it be in full age like as a shock of corn cometh in his season. Hear us, for our Redeemer's sake.

CXC.

FOR CHILDREN.

O Lord, who hast committed to our trust the charge of children to help to bring them up for thee, give us grace to train them up in the way they should go. May we use all parental and godly care and discipline over them. May we wisely, constantly, and in the spirit of love, as they are able to bear it, set before them the truths of thy word. May we bear them on our hearts in secret prayer, and do thou prosper all our efforts for their good. May we consider how responsible and weighty our charge is, and

may we glorify thy name by faithful diligence in the use of all the means of thy appointment, for their present and eternal welfare, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CXCI.

FOR PERSONS DEPENDENT ON US.

O God, from whom cometh all power and authority over others, and who hast intrusted to those at the head of this family many dependants, looking up to them for direction and government, graciously assist them in using so solemn and responsible a trust for the best good of those committed to their charge. O Lord, grant, we entreat thee, that thy gifts of influence and power may be used for thee, and for the spiritual as well as temporal welfare of those under us. Give them thy grace while under our care, and may they fulfil their duties to us under the blessed principles of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus may our relation together be blessed not only for our present, but for our eternal good.

CXCII.

FOR FRIENDS IN TRIAL.

O Lord, we commit unto thee those dear friends of whose trials and sorrows we have heard. We desire to sympathize with those in sorrow, and earnestly to call upon thee in their behalf. O Lord, be unto them a very present help in time of trouble. Enable them to cast all their burden on thee, and do thou

sustain them. May this affliction work mightily for their highest and best good. Give them light in darkness, comfort in affliction, joy in sorrow, and may the peaceable fruits of righteousness be abundantly yielded from the present trials, so that they may have to say, now and for ever, that it was good for them that they have been afflicted. If it be thy will, speedily deliver them. O give them seasonable help and relief. Be thou thyself their full portion; and however dark the trial, may they be able to say with thy servant of old, The Lord God is my strength; I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

CXCIII.

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSING TO FRIENDS.

O Lord, who hast told us to rejoice with them that do rejoice, we give thee praise and thanks for thy great goodness to our beloved friends, in delivering them from their fears, and in bestowing mercies upon them. O let these thy mercies constrain us to trust thee with our whole heart for the time to come, to rejoice in thy salvation, and to sing praises unto thee because thou hast dealt bountifully with us, thus helping and blessing those dear to us, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CXCIV.

AFTER A MEETING TO PROMOTE CHRISTIANITY
AMONGST THE JEWS.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who came as the minister of the circumcision to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and art now exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto Israel and remission of sins, we thank thee that we too are permitted to seek their salvation. We bless thee for the mercies of this day, and for the gathering together of thy people to forward this object. We thank thee for the assistance given to those who speak in behalf of Israel. May a permanent impression of the magnitude of this work be left on many hearts. May thy holy word be more opened to us, and more precious to us. May our attention be more directed to the many prophecies respecting Israel, and a love for Jerusalem be excited in all our hearts. Prepare us, prepare thine elect every where, for all the wonders of deep wisdom, judgment and love, in thy dealings with both Jews and Gentiles, and the grafting in again of Israel, and the making their receiving again to be as life from the dead to the world. May Jesus, the deliverer, quickly come out of the heavenly Sion, and turn away ungodliness from Jacob. Speedily accomplish thy promised grace and goodness, and have mercy upon all through Jesus our Redeemer.

CXC.V.

BEFORE GOSPEL PROPAGATION, OR MISSIONARY
SOCIETY MEETINGS OR SERMONS.

O God the Father, who hast declared that thou wilt have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth; O God the Son, who gavest the command to thy church, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature; O God the Holy Ghost, promised to all flesh in the last days; the one living and true God, we bring before thee a world lying in wickedness; we plead with thee for vast nations yet unblessed with the light of thy truth, and abandoning themselves to the abominations of idolatry, and we beseech thee to have mercy upon all men.

We thank thee that thou hast awakened thy church in our day to a greater concern for the heathen, and to enlarged missionary exertions. But yet, O Lord, how feeble our zeal, how scanty our gifts, how cold our love! O set before us and all thy people the unspeakable value of immortal souls; the costly price of redemption, the travail of the Redeemer, the joy set before him, and the blessedness of saving souls from death. May we discern the dishonour now put upon thy name by idolatry, and the holy happiness of the universal kingdom of Christ; that we may thus make efforts and sacrifices more corresponding to the magnitude of this great work.

Look in great pity and mercy upon benighted nations. Have respect unto the covenant, that in Christ all nations shall be blessed, and let thy saving light and health visit those dark places of the earth that have so long been, and are now full of the habitations of cruelty. Raise up, great Lord of the harvest, faithful servants to carry on the mighty work which has been begun. Accept our poor gifts and feeble prayers for the sake of the much incense offered up by our great High Priest. Bless every labourer, every missionary, every catechist, every teacher, every instructor, now among the heathen, with large success. May great and effectual doors be more and more opened, and every difficulty be overcome, and thy word have free course and be glorified. May the little one become a thousand, and the small one a strong nation, and may pure and prosperous churches of Christ be established in every land.

O hasten the blessed time when he who was once mocked, scourged, crucified and rejected of men, shall be crowned with honour and glory, and welcomed with glad acclamations by every people, kindred, tribe and tongue, and worshipped in the joyful service and adoration of a redeemed and renewed universe. Hasten the day when new light and glory shall dawn upon the nations of the earth, sorrow and sighing shall flee away, thy saints shall reign, and that glorious kingdom which shall never pass

away, shall be fully established. Give us to view the true source of all this glory, Jesus crucified, and humbling himself to the death of the cross for us; and through him may we even now be filled with all the riches of his grace, and the assured hope of his glory.

We pray that a special blessing may rest on the efforts made here at this time to advance this blessed cause. Assist with thy grace all who labour in this work of love. Stand by and strengthen preachers and speakers; bring together thy people, and give them a lively and growing interest for the increase of thy kingdom. May they never be weary of well-doing, and may they be filled with joy in their own souls while communicating the joyful tidings of salvation to others. Grant to them the happy experience of the truth of thy promises, Give and it shall be given to you; blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Thus may missions to the heathen revive thy church at home, and in that revival missions multiply, till the whole earth be prepared for thy return, and be filled with thy glory. Hear us, O our God, for our Redeemer's sake.

CXCVI.

BEFORE CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE, PRAYER-BOOK
AND HOMILY, AND RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETIES.

O Lord, we bless thee for all the efforts made in our land to diffuse true religion at home and abroad,

and that thou hast put it into the hearts of so many bountifully to aid in this work. Give heavenly wisdom, simple faith, holy love, godly jealousy for the purity of thy truth, and unwearied zeal, to all engaged in these works of mercy. Multiply their numbers very greatly. Awaken a general interest among all classes to promote Christian knowledge and piety, and the holy doctrines of the Reformation in our own and in all countries. May every effort prosper beyond all our hopes, and help to bring on rapidly the happy day when all shall know thee, and the whole earth be filled with thy glory.

CXCVII.

PRAYER BEFORE EFFORTS TO AID BIBLE SOCIETIES.

Father of lights and fountain of all wisdom, who hast given thy Holy Scriptures, by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, to be a light to our feet and a lamp to our paths, that we might be made wise unto salvation through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless and praise together thy holy name, that the sacred treasure of thy word has been so long intrusted to us and exalted amongst us. We confess our national sinfulness in not duly improving so great a talent ourselves, and in not communicating to others, as we might have done, this great benefit.

O Lord, all thanks be unto thee that thou hast put it into the hearts of thy people to unite together to send thy word to all who are needing it, both at

home and abroad; and that we have seen, as it were, since the blessed Reformation, the angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, that all may hear and read in their own tongue wherein they were born, the wonderful works of God, and be prepared for the coming hour of judgment. Abundantly bless this good work. Guide aright all who conduct it. Preserve them from all mistakes and errors. Prosper all their labours. Bless all their meetings, especially prosper the efforts making at this time amongst us. Let thy name be honoured and man be kept humble, and thy kingdom advanced, and the whole earth be prepared for the coming and universal dominion of our Divine Redeemer. Hear us, for his name's sake.

CXCVIII.

FOR A BLESSING ON SCHOOLS, AND EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EDUCATION.

O Lord our God, who hast called the young to remember their Creator in the days of their youth, and who hast bidden us to train up a child in the way in which he should go, and hast promised that when he is old he will not depart from it, we ask thy blessing on the efforts at this time making amongst us to promote Christian education and sound learning. We pray that thy blessed word may ever be

the standard and the guide in all our plans for this end, and the sure foundation of all our instruction; that we may seek first the kingdom of God and thy righteousness, and then expect every other good. Dispose the hearts of all gladly to assist in this work of love. We praise thee that thou hast established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which thou didst command the fathers to make known to their children, that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children, that they might set their hope in thee, and not forget thy works, but keep thy commandments. We entreat thee to grant that thy people obeying thy law, these great blessings may be continued to our children's children, from generation to generation, for our Redeemer's sake.

CXCIX.

FOR A BLESSING ON CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

O Lord our God, who alone puttest into the hearts of thy people good desires, and dost enable us to bring them to good effect, all glory be to thee that thou hast raised up in our favoured country so many blessed institutions for doing good both to the bodies and the souls of men. May thy full blessing rest upon them. Give heavenly wisdom to all who conduct them. Comfort and support, sanctify and bless all who maintain them. Increase continually the

number of those who abound in works of love, and like our Saviour go about doing good. May thy people ever by well-doing put to silence the ignorance of foolish men, adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, and bring glory to thy great name.

We especially pray for a blessing at this time on that particular design of charity which is now brought before us. Abundantly prosper this effort of love, and may we have multiplied and increasing reasons to praise thy name. May all who aid in it find by happy experience that it is more blessed to give than to receive, according to the saying of that Divine Redeemer, in whose name we offer up all our prayers.

Family Prayers for Special Graces.

CC.

TO WALK CONSISTENTLY WITH OUR BAPTISM.

O Lord our God, baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, we ought to have lived in the constant sense of thy presence and favour, in the full light of thy love, and in entire surrender of ourselves to thy service; but we have to mourn before thee that we have continually failed of our solemn obligations, and dishonoured that holy name in which we have been baptized. Have mercy upon us, and cleanse us afresh from all our sins in the blood of Jesus. O enable us hereafter to fulfil our vows and to walk worthy of our high calling; to renounce the pomps and vanities of this world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh, to resist the Devil, to believe every truth of thy word, and to walk in all thy commandments blameless. By thine own Spirit strengthen us. Discover to us more and more distinctly thy love to us, and our true blessedness, in walking as members of

Christ, children of God, and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven. May we realize salvation by grace through faith, and with such glorious privileges may we be followers of thee as dear children, and become daily more like thee. O may we never trust in the outward name or form; but may we be enabled by thy promises and the power of thine own Spirit to partake of thy divine nature, and to be holy as thou art holy, pure as thou art pure, and merciful as thou art merciful, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CCI.

PRAYER FOR CONVERSION.

O thou living God, who art the Saviour of all men, and especially of them that believe, grant that not one amongst us may abide in an unconverted state. Suffer not so fearful a thing, as that any of us, living in the fulness of gospel light, should be so blinded by the mists of sin and Satan as to remain still in darkness, and fall hereafter into that outer darkness where shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. Turn thou us, and we shall be turned. Give thou to us all, according to thy precious promise, a new heart and a new spirit. Put thy Spirit within us, and teach us to seek the Lord while he may be found, to call upon him while he is near, for our Saviour's sake. Amen.

CCII.

FOR REPENTANCE.

O exalted Prince and Saviour, Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of God to give repentance unto Israel and remission of sins, we apply to thee for these precious gifts. Thou hast told us, that except we repent we shall all perish, and that there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth. Seeing then the unspeakable importance of true repentance, may we diligently seek of thee this grace in all the ways of thine appointment. Teach us how spiritual, how holy, and just, and good, and how broad thy law is. May the commandment in its purity, and life, and power, be discerned by us. Help us to see the awfulness and righteousness of the curse on transgressors, and that times without number, daily and constantly, we have fallen short of thy glory. Thus may sin by the commandment become to us exceeding sinful. And farther may thine own Spirit show us thyself, made a sacrifice for us, and bearing our sins in thine own body on the tree. O help us to look to thee thus wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, till we mourn with godly sorrow, and with true compunction of heart turn unto God and lead a new life, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance. O Father Almighty, grant us repentance unto life. O Jesus, the only-

begotten of the Father, give unto us repentance. O Holy Ghost, convince us of sin, and then of righteousness and of judgment, that we may be renewed daily and become the temples of the living God, to whom be all honour and glory, now and evermore.

CCIII.

FOR FAITH.

O heavenly Father, from whom comes every good and perfect gift, and who savest thine own people, by grace, through faith which is thy gift; we come unto thee that we may obtain like precious faith with all thine elect, through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thou hast told us that without faith it is impossible to please thee. Thou hast again and again assured us, the just live by faith, and he that believeth on thy Son shall not perish, but have everlasting life. Graciously, then, impart unto us all this needful gift; give unto us grace to believe in the name of thy Son. May we do that special work which thou hast required of us, even to believe in him. May we obey the emphatic commands thou hast laid upon us, to believe in him, and to love one another. May we discern that not to believe thee, and the record which thou hast given of thy Son, is to account thee false; and may we especially dread to insult and mock our God in the highest expression of his goodness to us. May every

one of us, then, know and believe the love which thou hast to us, and that thy name is love. Preserve us from the delusion and self-deception of a vain and dead faith without works. Give us true, living, saving faith, which justifies the soul, brings peace, works by love, purifies the heart, quenches the fiery darts of Satan, and overcomes the world, and finally brings us, happy in thy love, to dwell in thy presence for ever. O may we be numbered with the noble army of believers, who confess thy name before men, and at length enter thy holy kingdom and the full joy of our Lord. Hear us for his name's sake.

CCIV.

FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

O God, our merciful Father, we, thy sinful children, come before thee in the name of Jesus. Lord, thou hast graciously promised, I will blot out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: I will blot out thine iniquities for my name's sake; and this thou hast said to those who have wearied thee with their iniquities, and made thee to serve with their sins. Oh amazing grace and love! thou wilt have such put thee in remembrance. Thou hast said, Declare thou, that thou mayest be justified; we do put thee in remembrance, we do call upon thee to pardon our sins; that, filled with the sense of thy pardoning love, we may with singleness of aim seek thy glory and do thy

will, deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow thee. And now unto him who has washed us and cleansed us from our sins in his own blood, who has prepared a glorious kingdom for us, and made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, unto him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

CCV.

FOR EARNESTNESS IN RELIGION.

O thou, who hast commanded us to give diligence to make our calling and election sure, give unto us holy zeal and earnestness in serving thee. Is it a slight thing, O Lord, to come out of a world lying in wickedness, to obtain salvation, to escape eternal wrath, and to win eternal glory? Oh awaken our slumbering souls, let us not by a spirit of trifling and levity fall short of this eternal glory. Thou hast told us the ruin of those who make light of thy gospel; thou hast told us, straight is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life; oh, work in us then mightily according to thine own power; teach us to use that holy violence by which the kingdom of heaven is taken by force; the straight gate being set before us, may we press into it; may we hunger and thirst after righteousness, and desire spiritual blessings, with the same eager thirst with which men desire that which is absolutely necessary for their bodies. Hear us for his sake whose strength is made perfect in our weakness.

CCVI.

FOR LOVE TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE.

Oh Lord, our heavenly Father, whose loving-kindness to us is from everlasting to everlasting, we may indeed say thou hast dealt bountifully with thy servants, only let our hearts answer to thine own full and overflowing thoughts of wisdom and love to us. Shed abroad, by the Holy Ghost, thy love in our hearts. Deliver us from the misery of selfishness, and teach us not to live to ourselves, but to him who loved us, even so that he spared not his own Son for us. Let our love to Jesus be fervent, like hers whose many sins were forgiven, and who loved much, and like that of Paul after his conversion. And grant, Lord, that we may love all our brethren in Christ with a pure heart fervently, and that the love of thy people towards each other may increase more and more. May we joy in the thought that there is one God and Father of us all, and that all we are brethren. Hasten that Philadelphian state of thy church when it shall every where be said, See how these Christians love one another! The Lord make us to increase and abound in love one towards another, and towards all men, and thus establish our hearts unblameable in holiness before thee, O God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. Amen.

CCVII.

THANKS FOR FAMILY LOVE, AND PRAYER FOR ITS
INCREASE AND ABOUNDING TO **ALL** MEN.

O our God, if we have been comforts to each other in times past, all praise and glory be to thee. Make us far more than hitherto, in times to come mutual blessings. The fountain of thy grace is exhaustless, O may we more and more be the means of conveying it to each other. Whether we be united or separated in body, may we be more closely bound by the ties of Christian affection, and all the tender bonds of faithful love. Knowing that there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, oh let not one among us forsake the Father of mercies or despise thy grace; but may we all walk in the ways of holiness here, that we may reach thy heavenly kingdom hereafter. O Lord, make us to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, according to the love of the first disciples; and establish our hearts unblameable in holiness before thyself at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. Amen.

CCVIII.

FOR CHRISTIAN GRACES.

Almighty Father, who hast in thy word called us to be partakers of the mind that was in Christ

Jesus, and to put on, as the elect of God, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing and forgiving one another, even as Christ forgave us, and above all to put on charity; we entreat together from thee grace thus to adorn thy gospel and glorify thy name day by day. Work in us to will, and work in us to do of thy good pleasure, that we may work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. O may all those dispositions which our divine Lord has pronounced to be blessed, be imparted to us. Give us poverty of spirit, mourning for sin, meekness of spirit, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, mercifulness and purity in heart; may we be peacemakers, and if persecuted for righteousness' sake may we rejoice and be glad. Thus may we be truly the salt of the earth, and the light of the world, and a real blessing to all around us. But, O Lord, our hearts are so full by nature of all that is opposite to the mind of Christ, and so evil and selfish, so proud and vain, that nothing but thine own Holy Spirit can deliver us from the pollution and slavery of sin, and produce this thine own holy likeness in us. O grant then that we with open face may behold, as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, and be changed into the same image from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CCIX.

PRAYER AGAINST OUR SPIRITUAL ENEMIES.

O Lord, thou knowest that we have great and mighty enemies. We have a heart of fearful wickedness within, O teach us to subdue the lusts of the flesh, and bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. An insnaring world is around us, teach us to know its snares, of which we are so ignorant; and since thou hast said, This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith, O give us this conquering faith. Teach us above all not to be ignorant of the devices of Satan, our cruel, real, hateful foe, who is always striving to drag us to destruction. Thou knowest, Lord, where this great enemy of our souls has any peculiar advantage over us. As thou didst pray for Peter, so that his faith failed not, watch over, guard and keep us that we too may not fail. Oh give us the shield of faith to quench his fiery darts, and make us more than conquerors through him who hath loved us. Bruise Satan under our feet shortly, and give unto us a new song of praise and thanksgiving. And when we fall, for there is no man that sinneth not, may we experience the peculiar faithfulness and tenderness which thou showest unto thy backsliding children, and know the truth of the promise, "I will heal their backslidings, I will love them freely, for mine anger is turned away from them." Hear us for Christ's sake.

CCX.

ON RECEIVING INJURIES FROM OTHERS.

Merciful Parent, God of all grace, we come before thee with the joyful assurance that we are approaching One of infinite wisdom, almighty power, holy love, and unfailing goodness and compassion. Man, we find by our own experience, ever fails in some points; O may we be led, the more we see of human weakness, waywardness, hardness and unkindness, to cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils, and to delight in the glory of our God. And if others do us evil, may we have that especial grace from thee which leads us to seek to overcome evil with good. May we live in the Spirit, and walk after the Spirit. May we remember our own many and great and oft-repeated offences against thee, and thy free and renewed and full forgiveness of all in Christ Jesus. May we follow the example of thy forgiving love, who for Christ's sake hast forgiven us. O let not our hearts dwell, Lord, here below, fixed on the cares and troubles of this lower world, but may we live in the light of thy love and be daily more and more prepared for thy coming glory. Enable us to rise above the clouds of this world, to the glorious sunshine of that eternal love which thou hast revealed to us, and in which we hope to dwell with thee for ever, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CCXI.

PRAYER FOR PATIENCE.

O Lord, who seest our sad impatience and fretfulness when disturbed by any thing that crosses and goes contrary to us, have mercy upon us, and pardon our great sinfulness. O help us to learn of Jesus who was meek and lowly in heart, that we may find rest to our souls. May we thus walk worthy of our calling, in all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. In our patience may we possess our souls, and let that patience have its perfect work, that we may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. Give us grace to remember that the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle to all men, patient, and in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, showing all meekness to all men. Give us this Christ-like and humble spirit, to the glory of thy great name, and the daily peace and comfort of ourselves and all around us, through Jesus our Redeemer.

CCXII.

TO BE DELIVERED FROM COVETOUSNESS.

Give us, Lord, full confidence in thee, not only for present mercy, but for all that is to come; thus let our conversation be without covetousness. May we

all remember thy solemn charge to take heed of covetousness, for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesses. Give us a large heart for thee and for thy cause, and so may we be rich towards God. Let us be content with such things as thou hast given us, and let us trust in thy gracious promise that thou wilt never leave us, wilt never forsake us. And not only let us trust thee in temporal things, but as regards our eternal interests also, may we believe that thy sheep shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of thy hand. Thus enable us, O our God, to be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known unto thee, for our Redeemer's sake, who, though Lord of all, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich.

CCXIII.

FOR GRACE TO WALK IN THE PATH OF DUTY.

Enable us, Lord, to fulfil our duties to thee and to each other. May we know that the path of duty is the path of happiness; make us quick to discern it, and bold and steadfast to pursue it. Knowing that the Lord is our helper, and that thou art the rewarder of all them that diligently seek thee, may we go on fearlessly in a straightforward course, seeking thy glory; but may we never in the boldness of the true disciples of Christ forget the humility and meekness

which becomes us. May we give up and mortify all our self-wisdom, self-will, and self-righteousness, and be ever ready to concede to others, where concession does not interfere with the glory of our Saviour; looking to him who pleased not himself, but endured the contradiction of sinners, and so attained the joy set before him. Hear us for his name's sake.

CCXIV.

FOR GRACE TO CONFESS THE TRUTH.

We thank thee, Lord, for the many precious promises of thy word, and for the assurance,—I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. May we, trusting in this, boldly say, The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man can do unto me. Preserve us, we beseech thee, from being ashamed of the gospel of Christ. May we know that it is the power of God unto salvation. May we be valiant for thy truth, and never fear to speak it with boldness; but make us at the same time meek and humble, as those whose sins have been pardoned by the blood of Christ, for his sake. Amen.

CCXV.

FOR LIKE-MINDEDNESS TO CHRIST.

Lord, thou hast said, "Ask, and ye shall have, seek, and ye shall find, knock, and it shall be opened unto you." In full confidence that what is spoken

in thy word shall be fulfilled in those counterparts of thy word, thy works of providence and grace; we ask for thy Spirit, and for faith and love. More especially we pray for the image of Christ, that his meekness, gentleness, holiness, patience, zeal, and every other lovely part of the Saviour's character may be inscribed upon our hearts, may direct our words, and be manifest in our actions. Thou hast said, "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his;" O give us the spirit of the Saviour. May we abide in him like the branch in the vine, that we may derive from him strength, support, and beauty, and bring forth much fruit. Hear our prayer for his name's sake. Amen.

CCXVI.

FOR GRACE TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF A
SUFFERING SAVIOUR.

O Lord, who hast shown many wonders of love in creation and providence, yet none so wondrous as the history of the sufferings of thy beloved Son, give us to know more of his love and patience, and may we learn from him patiently to receive whatever strokes our heavenly Father may send as the chastisement of our sins. May we remember that we are called as his disciples to suffer for well doing, and that it is a privilege and happiness to suffer for his sake. And may we copy not only the meekness and gentleness of Jesus, but his true and holy zeal.

May we remember how great was the burden of our sins that lay upon him, and yet how being strong in the Lord, he endured even to the end. O teach us that the fountain of his eternal strength is open to us also, and may we yield to no temptation, but be delivered from the fear of our enemies, and fight manfully under his banner against the world, the flesh, and the Devil. May we know that Jesus is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; that the good Shepherd is watching with tender care over his sheep in the wilderness of this world; that he walks in the midst of the golden candlesticks, and is with us every hour in the fulness of his dying love, the riches of his grace, and the depth of his heavenly wisdom; and so may we be strengthened to endure joyfully his cross in the way to his eternal joy, for his name's sake.

CCXVII.

FOR HOLINESS.

O holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, who hast commanded us to be holy, for thou art holy, and hast assured us that without holiness no man shall see the Lord, we, thy sinful creatures, whose hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, come together to thy mercy-seat to obtain mercy and to find grace to help in time of need. Help us, we beseech thee, to come out and be separate from an evil world, and not to touch the unclean

thing. Help us to believe thy loving-kindness in redeeming us from all iniquity, and pardoning all our sins, and in assuring us that thou wilt receive us and be a Father unto us. Having these promises, O may we cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. Write these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee. O thou very God of peace, sanctify us wholly, and grant our whole spirit, soul, and body, may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CCXVIII.

FOR HOPE.

O God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. May we know that when Christ shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; and may we hope to the end, for the grace which is to be brought unto us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Amidst all the delay of our hope, may we still continue to expect and quietly wait for thy salvation, knowing that we are saved by hope, and if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Give us then, we beseech thee, this sure anchor of the soul and this helmet of our salvation, that we may be preserved steadfast, immoveable, and always abounding in thy work here, till our hope be realized in the full fruition of thy glory in the world to come.

CCXIX.

FOR JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING.

O thou who hast called us always to rejoice and in every thing to give thanks: we know, O Lord, that thou art our God, our Father, and our portion, and that we are each exactly in those circumstances which thou dost in thy deep wisdom see best for us. May we then glorify thee by joy and peace in believing. Thou hast commanded us to rejoice; give what thou dost command, and then command what thou wilt. May this joy be our daily strength for every duty. And O that thou wouldest also grant that our joy and peace may be the means of bringing others unto thee. May they say, We will go with you, for the Lord is with you. Enable us to say unto them, as Moses did unto Hobab, Come with us, and we will do thee good; for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel. Hear us for Christ's sake.

CCXX.

FOR PREPARATION FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST.

Give unto us, O Lord, a simple faith in the testimony of thine own word, and a real expectation of those great, awful, and blessed events which are coming upon the world. May we know that thou comest speedily; may we watch the signs of the times, and prepare for thy return. Teach us how

overwhelming to our earthly sight, our timorous hearts, our sin-burdened consciences, would be any glimpse of that glory which thou art preparing for us, that we may seek to have our sins cleansed in the blood of the Saviour, and our hearts filled with that perfect love which casteth out fear, that we may be more and more prepared to stand in thy holy presence. O grant us such grace, that when thou dost come and knock, we may be ready to open unto thee, to dwell for ever with thee, and for ever behold the glory of the Lord. Hear us for thy great name's sake.

CCXXI.

PRESERVATION FROM THE PECULIAR ERRORS OF
THESE TIMES.

O Lord, thou God of all truth and holiness, who hast charged us not to believe every spirit, seeing that many false prophets are gone out into the world, but to try the spirits whether they are of God, give us grace to prove all things by thy law and testimony, and to hold fast that which is good. Preserve thou us from every unclean spirit, whether of infidelity, or lawlessness, or Popery, or any other false spirit which comes out of the mouth of the dragon, or of the beast, or of the false prophet.* May we constantly be looking for the coming of Christ, and know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. Grant us grace to watch and

* Rev. xvi. 13—15.

keep our garments undefiled. Do thou clothe us with the heavenly armour of light, and give us well-grounded assurance that we are not appointed unto wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. O may we keep the word of thy patience, and so be kept by thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell on the earth. O hear us, for our Redeemer's sake.

CCXXII.

PRESERVATION FROM THE SPECIAL TEMPTATIONS
OF THESE TIMES.

O merciful Father, who hast warned us that in the last days perilous times shall come, we mourn before thee that we have in our days so many sad tokens of these times. We entreat thee earnestly so to grant us thy grace that none of us, no not one, may be found among those who are lovers of themselves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. May we ever turn away from such, and continue in the things which we have learned and been assured of. Enlighten us by the holy scriptures, given by thy inspiration, which are able to make us wise unto salvation

through faith in Jesus Christ, and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness; and enable us to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, and thus thoroughly furnish us unto all good works, through the same Lord Jesus, our Redeemer.

CCXXIII.

THAT THE HOPE OF COMMUNION WITH ANGELS
IN GLORY MAY QUICKEN US TO PRESENT OBE-
DIENCE.

O Lord, who hast caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning, that we by patience and comfort of the scripture might have hope, lead us by the accounts given in thy word of the appearance of angels in thine earthly temple, and of their ministering to the heirs of salvation, to look forward to the day when thou shalt appear in thy glory, with all thy holy angels. They that minister unto thee shall then be ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; and we praise together and bless thy holy name that thou givest us the hope that when we are raised up in glory we shall be equal unto the angels, being the children of God, even the children of the resurrection. That we may attain this glory, may we now choose the way of thy commandments, may we now live by faith, and be a people made ready for the Lord; may we forsake the vain pleasure of the world, and being

filled with joy and peace in believing, may we serve thee here with reverence and fear, that we may be fitted to serve thee with unbroken joy and delight in thy temple above, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

CCXXIV.

FOR GRACE TO REALIZE THE PRESENCE AND LOVE
OF CHRIST.

May we think, O Jesus, on thine ever watchful providence, and remember that nothing, however small, that concerns us, escapes thy notice, that thus we may feel that we have an ever-present, ever-gracious friend. Give us too to know that it is a crucified Saviour who is thus present with us, he who loved us unto death, who gave his life's blood for us. Grant, O Saviour, that when we read of all thy sufferings, and of thy tender love and care for thy first disciples, our love to thee may grow more warm, more fervent, more true, and more sincere. O may we love thee and keep thy words, and thus obtain the promise that the Father will love us, and thou, O Jesus, with thy Father, wilt come unto us and abide with us. Hear us for thine own name's sake. Amen.

CCXXV.

FOR GRACE TO REALIZE THE UNCHANGEABLENESS
OF CHRIST.

O Jesus, who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever, teach us to know how unchangeable thou

art in thy glorious nature as the Son of God, and as the Son of man, still wearing our form upon thy throne of glory, and about to come again in that form once more to bless our earth. Teach us by blessed experience the unchangeableness of thine offices of love; still as Immanuel be with us, as our Prophet teach us, as our Priest plead for us, as our King rule over us, as Jesus, save and deliver us from our sins. Oh may the ever-enduring power of thy salvation be our stay and comfort; though we be vile as the expiring thief, stubborn as the hardened Jews, blind as the unbelieving Gentiles, may the same mighty power which saved them, ransom and deliver us. And as we read in thy holy word of each instance of thy goodness, may we delight in the thought that thy mercy and tenderness are still the same, thy love an unbroken stream which shall but widen as it flows, till the whole earth be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Never, Lord, let the sinful chains of custom, the deadening influence of an unbelieving world, or the secret unbelief of our own hearts hide from us the blessed truth that Jesus is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. Since thou art the same mighty Lord, whose glory the prophet beheld, and cried, "Wo is me for I am unclean, a man of unclean lips," may we never approach thee but with deep reverence and godly fear, since thou art ever united to us, bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh. May

we now by faith carry on a blessed interchange of communion with thee, till we see thee as thou art, and know as we are known.

GRACE BEFORE MEALS.

O Lord, bless this provision for our use, and make us truly thankful, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or this:

Thou givest us, O Lord, all things richly for enjoyment, and whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, may we do all to thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

GRACE AFTER MEALS.

We thank thee, O Father, who hast given us our meat in due season. May we live to thy praise through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Or this:

Blessed be our God, who daily loadeth us with his benefits, for all his goodness to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

COMMENCEMENT OF PRAYER.

Lord, teach us to pray.

LORD'S PRAYER.

(At the beginning or end of the Family Prayers.)

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in

earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUSION OF PRAYERS.

Rom. xvi. 27. To God only wise, be glory, through Jesus Christ, for ever. Amen.

1 Tim. vi. 16. To whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Jude 25. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Ephes. iii. 20, 21. Unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, to him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

CONCLUDING BLESSINGS.

The peace of God be with you all, now and evermore.

Or,

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Or,

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Or,

The God of love and peace be with you.

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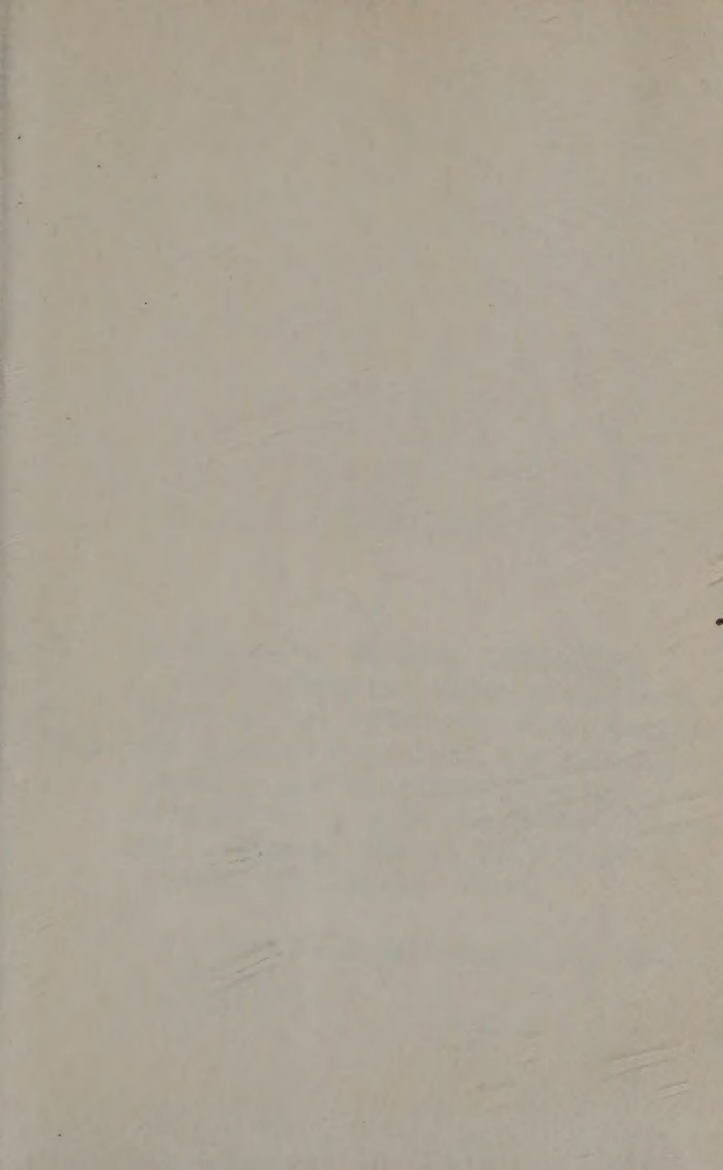
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